



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA LETTER

Agenda Number:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2240

Department Name: Probation
Department No.: 022
For Agenda Of: February 27, 2018
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Time:
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Department Tanja Heitman, Chief Probation Officer (805) 739-8537
Director(s)
Contact Info: Damon Fletcher, Administrative Deputy Director (805) 882-3654

SUBJECT: Santa Barbara Juvenile Hall status as a juvenile detention facility

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Other Concurrence: N/A

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- A. Authorize the Chief Probation Officer to submit a letter to the California Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) removing the Santa Barbara Juvenile Hall's (SBJH) status as a juvenile detention facility; and
- B. Determine that the above recommended action is not a project that is subject to environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to section 15378(b)(5), finding that the action is not a project as they are organizational or administrative activities of governments that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment, and direct staff to file the Notice of Exemption (Attachment A).

Summary Text:

Designation of the SBJH as a juvenile detention facility results in inspections by multiple entities including the BSCC, Grand Jury, and the Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Commission. The Probation Department incurs significant staff time and some expense preparing for these inspections, responding to findings, and performing associated facility maintenance. Subsequent to the budget reductions of Fiscal Year (FY) 2008-2009, the SBJH has not operated as a juvenile detention facility; a letter from the Chief Probation Officer to the BSCC is required to eliminate the facility's status and cease the need for further inspections. In addition it is necessary to remove the status for the County to

move forward with the expansion of the Probation Report and Resource Center or the development of a Mental Health Rehabilitation Center on the site.

Background:

On May 16, 2017, during the Public Safety Realignment Act presentation to your Board, the Probation Department indicated that the SBJH campus was being evaluated as a location to expand the Probation Report and Resource Center, as well as a potential site for a Mental Health Rehabilitation Center. The Department reported the intent to eliminate the designation of SBJH as a juvenile detention facility.

Santa Barbara County has two (2) juvenile hall facilities, one (1) being the SBJH, which was built between 1953 and 1958 and has not been utilized as a juvenile hall since FY 2008-2009 when operational funding was eliminated. In 1976, the Santa Maria Juvenile Hall (SMJH) was comprised of two (2) units designed to house 12 and 8 youth and in 1991 a 30-bed unit was added. Then in 2005 the facility was expanded adding three (3) 30-bed units. The current capacity of 140 greatly exceeds the current local need. In 2017, the average daily population (ADP) of the SMJH was 60 and the ADP of the Los Prietos Boys Camp (LPBC) was 40.

Based on current trends in the juvenile justice population, there is no anticipated need to house youth at the SBJH, therefore, maintaining its designation as a juvenile detention facility with the BSCC is not warranted. Eliminating the SBJH's status with the BSCC will save staff time and costs associated with maintaining that status. The facility is over 60 years old and is in need of repair; however, the Probation Department has not moved forward with repairs as there is no plan to house youth in the facility. Initially it was believed that SBJH should be maintained as a custody facility for use by the LPBC should the need for evacuation arise. However, LPBC has been evacuated several times since the SBJH closure and the youth were successfully transferred and housed at the SMJH. The SMJH is a newer facility with onsite management, food services, and infrastructure to accommodate the youth from LPBC. The rated capacity of the SMJH exceeds the combined population of both facilities and is sufficient to house all of the in custody youth in the event of an emergency. If the need arose to evacuate the youth from the SMJH, or if LPBC could not be evacuated to the SMJH, the Department has Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) with the San Luis Obispo and Ventura County Probation Departments to house Santa Barbara County's youth in their facilities.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: No

Fiscal Analysis:

Narrative:

There is no fiscal impact of removing the designation of the SBJH as a juvenile detention facility; however, if it was ever decided to reactivate the facility as a juvenile detention facility extensive renovation would be required to ensure compliance with current standards. Due to the age and condition of the facility, as well as changes to standards incurred over time, this would be a costly capital project. Maintaining the designation as a juvenile detention facility would requires significant repairs which could run upwards of one million dollars.

Staffing Impacts:

N/A

Special Instructions:

Please return one (1) Certified Minute Order to Damon Fletcher, Administrative Deputy Director, Probation Department, 117 E. Carrillo Street, Santa Barbara, CA 93101.

Attachments:

Attachment A: CEQA Notice of Exemption

Authored by:

Damon Fletcher, Administrative Deputy Director