

de la Guerra, Sheila

# Public Comment



#7

**From:** Lawanda Lyons-Pruitt <lyonspruitt@msn.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 15, 2023 3:50 PM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Cc:** Lawanda Lyons-Pruitt  
**Subject:** Santa Maria-Lompoc NAACP Comments Departmental Item D7, May 16th, 2023  
**Attachments:** Letter to Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors - D7 5 16 23.pdf  
**Importance:** High

**Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.**

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Phone: (805)-448-7869

"I **URGE** you to answer the highest calling of your heart and **STAND UP** for what you truly believe."  
Congressman John R. Lewis

"Democracy Dies in Darkness." The Washington Post

NAACP  
SANTA MARIA-  
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**Pam Gates**  
*3rd Vice-President*

**Beverly Washington**  
*Secretary*

**Gloria Mantooth**  
*Treasurer*

**MISSION**

Our mission is to achieve equity, political rights, and social inclusion by advancing policies and practices that expand human and civil rights, eliminate discrimination, and accelerate the well-being, education, and economic security of Black people and all persons of color.

**VISION**

We envision an inclusive community rooted in liberation where all persons can exercise their civil and human rights without discrimination.

# NAACP

*Santa Maria/ Lompoc Branch*

May 15, 2023

TO: Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors

Clerk of the Board

Re: Public Comments Departmental Agenda Item, D7, Renovations at the Main Jail and Possible Construction at the Northern Branch Jail, Project No. 20041

Dear Chair Williams and Members of the Board,

After reviewing and reading all items attached to Departmental Item D7, including County Executive Office Board Letter, comments from CLUE/League of Women Voters, Larry Severance, the Law Firm of Aaron Fischer, et al; attending at least one SBCAN meeting where representatives of CLUE and the League of Women Voters presented, attending Public Safety (JJCC, JJCC WG, CCP, CCP WG) and NAMI Public Policy meetings (as well as being a member of NAMI) and being a retiree of Santa Barbara County Office of the Public Defender, our branch, Santa Maria-Lompoc Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) supports the CEO's recommendation of Option 1.

Not only is Option 1 fiscally viable, it will safely reduce the number of jail beds needed by requiring all criminal justice partners/agencies to continue their collaborative work focusing on reduction in the Jail population through inter-departmental risk assessments and re-entry planning; releasing non-violent low-level offenders with mental health and addiction challenges into community based treatment programs; early holistic representation by the Public Defender Office which will expedite cases and likely reduce jail time; all while keeping those who must be incarcerated incarcerated and our community safe.

We strongly urge the Board to adopt Option 1.

Sincerely,



Lawanda Lyons-Pruitt

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**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE  
ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE**

**LAWANDA LYONS-PRUITT**  
President



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**de la Guerra, Sheila**

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**From:** Lawanda Lyons-Pruitt <lyonspruitt@msn.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 15, 2023 3:32 PM  
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**Attachments:** img20230515\_15254527.pdf

**Importance:** High

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