

John W. Carpenter

115 Taylor Ridge Way
Palmyra, VA 22963

May 15, 2015

Board of Supervisors
Santa Barbara County

Dear Members of the Board,

I write to express my strong support for the construction and operation of a new jail in northern Santa Barbara County, and to urge you to take all necessary steps to make that a reality.

Some of the jail facilities currently being utilized were built more than 50 years ago. The latest parts of the jail were built over forty years ago, mostly during my administration. Since that time the jail has deteriorated, and there have been many advances in jail design, programming and supervision philosophy that make a new jail necessary.

Previous Boards of Supervisors didn't act upon the need for a new jail. The cost of constructing a new correctional facility has risen dramatically, and it will continue to do so if you do not act now. Sheriff Brown and his team have been successful in securing almost \$120 million in state funds towards the construction of a new jail. This extraordinary opportunity never existed before, and it is unlikely to ever exist again.

I implore you to move forward rapidly with all necessary approvals for this project, so that Santa Barbara County can have a correctional facility it can be proud of. The new jail will focus on rehabilitation as well as punishment. Constructing a new jail will benefit correctional staff, inmates and, most importantly, the safety of the citizens of Santa Barbara County.

Sincerely,



John Carpenter
Sheriff (Retired)
Santa Barbara County
1970 - 1990

2015 MAY 26 PM 2:00