

Response to Santa Barbara County Grand Jury Report:

Santa Barbara Main Jail

Report Summary

- Published May 18, 2017
- The Grand Jury released their “Santa Barbara Main Jail”, which contains the results of their review of the condition of the Santa Barbara Main jail and options for funding improvements.
- The Board of Supervisors are named as a responder to Findings 1, 2, 3, & 4 as well as Recommendations 1b, 2b, 3b & 4.

Finding 1

- “The Santa Barbara County Sheriff’s Department and the Santa Barbara County General Services Department have not developed a prioritized list for repair projects at the Main Jail.”

The Board disagrees partially with the finding.

- Two completed studies have identified and prioritized repair and maintenance projects. In addition to those studies, an ADA assessment of the Main Jail, is underway. This review remains ongoing and is not fully complete as of the date of this response.

Recommendation 1b

- “That the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors direct the Santa Barbara County General Services Department to provide cost estimates for these repair projects.”

The recommendation will be implemented:

- Preliminary estimates have already been obtained via the Jorgensen, Marx-Okuba, and Vanir studies that require further review due to possible discrepancies and ADA requirements. A final implementation plan with full estimates will be completed by June 30, 2018.

Finding 2

- “The Santa Barbara County Sheriff’s Department and the Santa Barbara County General Services Department have not developed a prioritized list for replacement projects at the Main Jail.”

The Board disagrees partially with the finding:

- Two completed studies have identified and prioritized repair and maintenance projects. In addition to those studies, an Americans with Disabilities Act (“ADA”) assessment of the Main Jail was begun, identifying and prioritizing such issues as facility accessibility and other ADA issues.

Recommendation 2b

- “That the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors direct the Santa Barbara County General Services Department to provide cost estimates for these replacement projects.”

The recommendation will be implemented:

- Preliminary estimates have already been obtained via the Jorgensen, Mark-Okuba, and Vanir studies that require further review due to possible discrepancies and ADA requirements. A final implementation plan with full estimates will be completed by June 30, 2018.

Finding 3

- “The Santa Barbara County Sheriff’s Department and the Santa Barbara County General Services Department have not developed a prioritized list for repurposing projects at the Main Jail.”

The Board agrees with the finding:

Recommendation 3b

- “That the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors direct the Santa Barbara County General Services Department to provide cost estimates for these repurposing projects.”

The recommendation will be implemented:

- The Sheriff, working with expert consultants, will need to identify programs to be adjusted and space repurposed. Major construction may have to be deferred until the Northern Branch Jail is opened and can hold Mail Jail inmates during the construction. Funding for the repurposing projects has not been identified.

Finding 4

- “Funding availability for Main Jail repair, replacement and repurposing will be problematic based on current budget forecasts.”

The Board agrees with the finding:

Recommendation 4

- “That the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors identify alternative funding resources for Main Jail repair, replacement and repurposing such as using a portion of the Strategic Reserve, new tax initiatives, General Obligation Bonds or creation of a specific reserve account or any combination of these.”

The recommendation will be implemented.

- Once an implementation plan with full estimates is known, the County will identify possible funding sources for high priority needs in the context of other capital and operating priorities. These may or may not include the funding sources listed by the Grand Jury, some of which require voter approval. The identification of funding sources for priority capital and maintenance projects, identified in the County’s annual Capital Improvement Plan, is incorporated in the budget development process each year. In light of the County’s current fiscal constraints, the ability to address the identified capital investment needed to repair, replace, or repurpose the SB Mail Jail must be balanced with the need to maintain critical public services.

Recommended Actions:

- a) Consider and adopt responses in Attachment A as the Board of Supervisors' response to the 2016-2017 Grand Jury report entitled "Santa Barbara Main Jail", Attachment B;
- b) Authorize the Chair to sign a response letter and forward the responses to the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court (Attachment A); and
- c) Determine pursuant to CEQA Guidelines 15378(b)(5) that the above actions are not a project subject to CEQA review, because it is a government administrative activity that does not result in direct or indirect physical changes to the environment.