

Santa Barbara County Detention Facilities: Where They spend Their Time

SUMMARY

As required by State law, the Grand Jury conducted inspections of the Main Jail, the police departments, Sheriff's Stations and other detention facilities within Santa Barbara County. The Santa Barbara County Main Jail continues to be severely overcrowded, and remains in violation of State law. The need for a new jail is increasingly urgent. The Grand Jury's inspection of all other detention facilities found no obvious issues requiring corrective action.

Board of Supervisors Response

Recommendation 1: *Property* should be purchased for the construction of a North County Jail.

Response: The Board adopted the Sheriff Department's response as its response. (Recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future).

On April 12, 2005, the Board of Supervisors directed the Sheriff and the County Executive Officer to proceed with planning for a new county jail at the Laguna Sanitation District (LCSD) site. The draft Environmental Impact Report for this site is being reviewed and is expected to be finalized and released for public comment by the end of July 2006.

Appraisals for land costs have been conducted on this site and the Sheriff's Department has proceeded with architectural plans for construction of a new facility. Property acquisition negotiations are expected to take place during FY 06-07.

Recommendation 2: Sources for funding of a North County Jail should be secured.

Response: The Board adopted the Sheriff Department's responses as its response. (Recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future).

In planning for the construction of a new county jail, the Santa Barbara County Chief Executive Office and the Sheriff's Department held several meetings to discuss funding alternatives for construction and operation of a new facility. On December 13, 2005, these funding alternatives were presented to the Board of Supervisors as part of a public presentation titled *County of Santa Barbara New Jail Planning Study*.

The Sheriff's Department has acted upon the Board of Supervisor's directions and is working with the County Executive Office in an effort to identify funding and continue the planning process. Results of these actions will be presented to the Board of Supervisors in subsequent hearings.

Recommendation 3:

A timeline for the purchase of land and the construction of a North County Jail should be established.

Response: The Board adopted the Sheriff Department's response as its response. (Recommendation has been implemented).

The Sheriff's Department has, within the Department's Strategic Plan, established goals and projected timelines for purchase of land and construction of a new county jail. However, this timeline has been delayed due to funding limitations.

Sheriff Response

Recommendation 1: Property should be purchased for the construction of a North County Jail.

Response to Recommendation 1: This recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future.

On April 12, 2005, the Board of Supervisors directed the Sheriff and the County Executive Officer to proceed with planning for a new county jail at the Laguna Sanitation District (LCSD) site. The draft Environmental Impact Report for this site is being reviewed and is expected to be finalized and released for public comment by the end of July 2006. Appraisals for land costs have been conducted on this site and the Sheriff's Department has proceeded with architectural plans for construction of a new facility. Property acquisition negotiations are expected to take place during FY 06-07.

Recommendation 2: "Sources for funding of a North County Jail should be secured."

Response to Recommendation 2: This recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be in the future.

In planning for the construction of a new county jail, the Santa Barbara County Chief Executive Office and the Sheriff's Department held several meetings to discuss funding alternatives for construction and operation of a new facility. On December 13, 2005, these funding alternatives were presented to the Board of Supervisors as part of a public presentation titled County of Santa Barbara New Jail Planning Study. The Sheriff's Department has acted upon the Board of Supervisor's directions and is working with the County Executive Office in an effort to identify funding and continue the planning process. Results of these actions will be presented to the Board of Supervisors in subsequent hearings.

Recommendation 3: "A timeline for the purchase of land and the construction of a North County Jail should be established".

Response to Recommendation 3:

This recommendation has been implemented.

The Sheriff's Department has, within the Department's Strategic Plan, established goals and projected timelines for purchase of land and construction of a new county jail. However, this timeline has been delayed due to funding limitations. Finding 4: "Main Jail staff reports an increase of violence as a result of overcrowding"