

ALAMEDA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' PUBLIC PROTECTION COMMITTEE

Thursday, June 9, 2016
1:00 p.m.

Supervisor Richard Valle, Chair
Supervisor Scott Haggerty

Location: Board of Supervisors' Chambers – Room 512 – 5th Fl
County Administration Building
1221 Oak Street, Oakland, CA 94612

Summary/Action Minutes

I. Health Program and Services Unit Project Update

[Attachment](#)

Carla Kennedy, Commander, Alameda County Sheriff's Office, Willie A. Hopkins, Jr., Director, General Services Agency, Yvonne Jones, Director of Criminal Justice Mental Health, Behavioral Health Care Services and Andrea Weddle, Assistant County Counsel, Office of the County Counsel, presented a PowerPoint presentation on the Santa Rita Jail Improvement Program.

Three projects in the Santa Rita Jail Improvement Program are consolidated to illustrate the projected cost savings if they are implemented together. The three projects are: 1) Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Accessibility Project; 2) Security System Upgrade; 3) Health Program and Services Project (SB 863). The combined estimated cost of the three projects is \$116.9 million. The savings for the entire program is estimated to be \$5.9 million. Individually the ADA project will cost \$2.5 million more and the Security System Upgrade will be \$3.4 million more.

ADA Accessibility Project

In November of 2012, lawsuit was filed against the County regarding conditions in the jail for persons with disabilities. As a result of the lawsuit a settlement agreement was approved on April 6, 2016, to correct programmatic access challenges to the jail that predated the ADA.

The settlement includes policy changes to respond to ADA inmates, structural changes for adequate programmatic access and the County to retain services of an ADA expert, to monitor construction efforts.

Other settlement agreement provisions:

- Work will be performed in 4 phases and must be completed within 6 years
- Settlement milestones/tasks must be completed between 12 and 42 months from the date of settlement (April 6, 2016)
- A federally-mandated Transition Plan for the Jail must be completed
- Total project cost is approximately \$24 million, including attorney and monitoring fees of \$1.1 million (cost savings of \$2.5 million, if completed with the SB 863 Project)

Security System Upgrade

The Security System upgrade at Santa Rita Jail includes the replacement of the outdated proprietary security system. Replacement includes state-of-the-art infrastructure for security, fire alarm, building automation, associated network per best building practices. The project was anticipated in the FY2008-13 Capital Improvement Plan and is estimated cost is \$37.1 million. Approximately \$1 million has been spent on the design for the project and if the project is completed with the SB 863 project, there is an estimated costs savings of \$3.398 million.

Health Program and Services Project (SB 863)

On November 12, 2015, the Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) awarded the Alameda County Sheriff's Office up to \$54,340,000 through Senate Bill 863. The BSCC approved plan will renovate two housing units at the Santa Rita Jail and fill in the connecting space between those two housing units. This improvement will allow the Sheriff's Office to address much needed space for medical exams and specialty clinics, mental health treatment, and realignment programming. This project would eliminate eighteen (18) bed spaces at the jail.

Functional improvements will provide modern, well designed facilities for consolidation of medical and mental health staff to one location improving coordination. Improvements will also increase access to re-entry services provided by community based organizations and case manager and the ability to bring mandated critical services to those in custody.

The State schedule requires the Board of Supervisors funding and approvals by June 24, 2016 to preserve approval and proceed with the \$61.6 million project, which requires a County commitment, with the \$54.3 million to be reimbursed by the State. The overall project saves \$5.9 million if combined with the ADA and Security upgrade projects.

Speakers

Elzora Wilson, spoke on behalf of her son Michael Wilburn, he has been cycling in and out of jail due to drugs and he has mental issues and for the last 10-12 years, he has not been getting any kind of help. He has mental issues. He is in denial. Ask that something be done for her son, when her son is out of jail it is the same thing. (Supervisor Valle referred Ms. Wilson to the Alameda County Mental Health Court.)

Leigh Davenport, urged the Committee to press pause on the SB 836 portion of the project, ask for more information for itemized estimates on costs savings; impact and budget analysis, San Francisco rejected funds from the SB 836 funding.

James Deboer, Ella Baker Center, asked questions regarding the specific projects and penalties incurred by the County for missing the ADA deadline and any resolution processes.

Shamika Wilson stated that the jail is not a place for rehabilitation and by expanding the jail the County is hindering the process of reunifying families.

Eva Delair, Staff attorney, Legal Services for Prisoners with Children and a plaintiff in the ADA lawsuit against the County, stated that she is opposed to the use of SB 863 to expand the jail. Mental health services could be better provided in the community.

Edward Opton, psychologist and attorney and a resident of Alameda County for more than 50 years stated is opposed to the jail expansion. The size of the space is not needed and the costs are disproportionate to serving mentally ill inmates.

Avinash Naidu and Chandra Kumar, residents of Hayward, requested help for their son who has a severe drug problem and he goes in and out of jail and the hospital emergency rooms.

Tash Nguyen, Ella Baker Center, stated that the Oakland and San Lorenzo Teacher's Education Associations have signed on to support community solutions and oppose the jail expansion through SB 863 funds. Ms. Nguyen does support the ADA and security upgrades.

Jerry Elster, American Friends Service Committee member, All of Us or None member, does not support the SB 863 jail expansion. He applauds federal, state and local governments for working on solutions to assist the reentry population. Mr. Elster state that schools should be built instead.

Speakers

Cassandra Belson, Ella Baker Center, opposes the expansion of the jail with SB 863 funds and she also requested to see an actual plan for the expansion services.

Maria Ibarra, Ella Baker Center, opposes the expansion of the jail because it robs resources from other areas in the community.

Steve Bischoff, Mental Health Association of Alameda County, stated that there should be a plan available for the project.

Purpose:

- Report progress**
- Advocacy or Education
- Request Public Protection Committee Recommendation or Position
- Other:

This item was informational only and required no Committee action.