



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ALAMEDA COUNTY SUPERVISORS APPROVE NEARLY \$117 MILLION IN UPGRADES TO SANTA RITA JAIL IN DUBLIN

The Alameda County Board of Supervisors on Tuesday approved \$116.9 million in upgrades to the County's Santa Rita Jail in Dublin. The upgrades will provide significant improvements in access for people with disabilities, create a new medical wing to provide greatly improved healthcare and mental health services to inmates and enhance jail security.

The extensive capital improvement program for the jail actually incorporates three separate projects:

- A \$24.1 million series of improvements and renovations to the jail to meet the needs of people with physical disabilities. The project would include upgrades to housing units, restrooms, dining areas, visitor areas and other facilities at the jail.
- The construction of a state-of-the-art Health Program and Services Unit (HPSU) to provide a wide array of physical and mental health services to men and women incarcerated at Santa Rita. This will include the addition of much needed space for educational and rehabilitative programs as well as private spaces for individual therapeutic and group counseling. This Unit will be operated in conjunction with County agencies and community based treatment providers. The project totals \$61.6 million, of which \$54.3 million is being funded through a grant from the State of California.
- A \$37.14 million project to replace outdated, 1980s-era security systems at the jail. The project will include upgrades to the jail's fire alarm system and automated security network to enhance the safety of inmates, staff and the surrounding community. County officials said the new systems will save significant staff time that is currently required to maintain the existing security systems.

County officials said the projects will result in a decrease of 18 beds at the jail, which has a capacity of about 4,000 inmates. The reduction is the result of additional space needed for the new HPSU. In addition, they said consolidating the three distinct projects into one will minimize disruption to inmates and jail operations, and save taxpayers approximately \$6 million in construction costs.

The Board's approval came amid several looming deadlines that County staff said required the projects to move forward. These include terms of a legal settlement reached in April requiring numerous upgrades to the jail to bring the facility, which opened in 1989, in compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards. The settlement requires some of the upgrades to be made by April 2017.

In addition, Alameda County faced a June 24 deadline to approve the project in order to secure the \$54.3 million the State has designated to help pay for the Santa Rita HPSU.

County officials said security upgrades and disabled access improvement projects will be funded through capital improvement funds the Board has been setting aside each year to help pay for needed upgrades to County facilities.

The County's contribution to the HPSU project includes \$1.6 million from the Alameda County Sheriff's Office budget and a \$5.7 million "in-kind" match that includes the value of the County-owned land at Santa Rita and staff and administrative support costs.