

AUG 31 2016

BY: _____

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Second District

DOREEN FARR
Third District, Vice Chair

PETER ADAM
Fourth District, Chair

STEVE LAVAGNINO
Fifth District



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
County Administration Building
105 East Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
Telephone: (805) 568-2190
www.countyofsb.org

COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

July 12, 2016

Honorable James Herman
Presiding Judge
Santa Barbara Superior Court
County Courthouse
1100 Anacapa Street
Santa Barbara CA 93101

Reference: Response to Santa Barbara Civil Grand Jury report titled, "Detention Facilities Report",
(Published May 24, 2016, and Grand Jury Website).

Judge Herman:

Please find attached the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors (Board) response to the above referenced Civil Grand Jury Report. As directed by the Grand Jury, all responses are provided in accordance with Section 933.05 of the California Penal Code.

The Board appreciates the work conducted by the General Services Department for their assistance in responding to this matter.

Sincerely,

Peter Adam, Chair
Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors

CC: Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors
Maria Millsaps, Foreperson, 2015-16 Santa Barbara Civil Grand Jury

Attachment A

Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors
Response to the Santa Barbara County Grand Jury 2015-2016 Report
"Detention Facilities Report"

Finding 2

The Coroner's Office urgently needs a new facility.

The Board partially disagrees with the finding.

On May 12, 2015, the County responded to the FY 2014-15 Grand Jury's report titled, "Santa Barbara Sheriff-Coroner's Bureau –Still an Unhealthy Environment", (Published February 10, 2015, Grand Jury Website). In that response, it was noted that the Mechanical Engineering Consultants (MEC) report identified tasks necessary to update the building ventilation system. Improvements to the facility would be made for continued safe use of the existing facility. The Coroner's HVAC project consists of the replacement of the heating, cooling, and ventilation system for the building. The project will include replacing the failing exhaust system, re-ducting the ventilation system, so general offices and exam room are completely separate and do not share air. The replacement of these items will include a re-balance of the system to create a negative pressured air environment for the exam room. This maintenance and repair work has an expected life of 20 years. The improvements being undertaken are based on the MEC study of the Sheriff-Coroner's Bureau facility completed in October 2013 (MEC Report) and updated in FY 2015-16. As a result of that study and subsequent action by the Board of Supervisors, the General Services Department completed plans and specifications for a project estimated at a cost not to exceed \$200,000.

The project was formally bid and the County received bids on May 12, 2016. The bids have been reviewed and the lowest bidder submitted a bid for \$145,000. The project is expected to take 90 days, with project completion estimated to end before the end of October 2016. The Contractor has been awarded the contract, and work is anticipated to begin July 5, 2016.

Once maintenance and repair work is completed, a reassessment of the building condition should occur to evaluate the necessity of replacing the current facility.

Recommendation 2

That the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors immediately allocates funding for a new facility.

The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable.

As noted in the response above, the repairs to the facility are not significant enough to require replacement of the facility; therefore, funding has been allocated for the recommended building improvements as identified in the MEC report. The upgraded HVAC system will address the concerns noted from the Grand Jury and a new facility is not warranted or reasonable. Once the facility

improvements have been completed, General Services will continue to work with the Sheriff's Office who operates the facility to further assess the adequacy of the improved facility. A new Sheriff's Coroner's facility is now listed in the County's Capital Improvement Program; however, there is currently \$300 million in countywide unfunded capital needs. Capital needs including projects such as a new Sheriff Coroner's facility are evaluated annually and funded based on available funding and the highest ranked countywide priority projects.