



# COUNTY OF YOLO

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## Cooperation to Locate a Reentry Facility and Application for Jail Expansion Funding

### Reentry Facilities

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- Inmates in state prison are released back into the community in which they lived prior to incarceration as is required by law. Currently, these inmates are given \$200, a bus ticket and a “good luck” with little to no prospects of success.
- As the current system operates, people are released from prison without any treatment or survival skills. Reentry facilities provide a mechanism to provide these individuals life skills, job-seeking skills, and medical, mental health and addiction treatment, etc. prior to release.
- Research shows that offenders are more likely to be successful on parole, and less likely to return to prison, resulting in overcrowding in state prisons, when they receive intensive programming that is focused on their needs and near their local community. The intensive treatment and rehabilitation programs to be placed in reentry facilities are designed to allow a transition period to:
  - Connect the inmate to community services and support programs
  - Provide an evidence-based continuity of care
  - Develop a plan for a crime-free life upon release
- Secure reentry facilities are key to achieving the rehabilitative goals laid out in Assembly Bill 900 (AB 900 – the Public Safety and Offender Rehabilitation Services Act of 2007), and once fully integrated into the corrections system, are expected to:
  - Increase ex-offenders’ success on parole
  - Reduce recidivism and re-victimization
  - Increase public safety throughout California
  - Reduce overcrowding in state prisons
- Risk and needs assessments conducted on inmates selected for reentry will be critical to designing their program. Multiple instruments will be utilized to determine which inmates have a moderate to high risk to re-offend. This group will be a key focus in reentry facilities, and programs will be targeted to meet their needs. The core program that will be delivered in reentry facilities includes:
  - Academic, vocational and financial education
  - Substance abuse treatment
  - Aggression, hostility and anger management
  - Criminal thinking, behaviors and associations
  - Family, marital and relationship assistance
- Individualized case management plans will be developed for each offender that include: specific goals and objectives, programs and services to be provided, expectations and outcomes, time lines for completion of milestones, involvement of familial and community supports, and planning for community reentry and reintegration.

- Reentry facilities will be built and operated by the state for housing up to 500 inmates during their last 12 to 18 months of incarceration.
- The State will conduct appropriate CEQA (California Environmental Quality Act) and in the case of the airport NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) review. The review will address the potential for increased flooding and vehicle traffic, lack of sewage disposal facilities, fire protection, water and other environmental impacts.
- The architectural designs are completely unobtrusive, and are void of towers or barbed wire fences. The building envelope serves as the secure perimeter, and conceptual design renderings have been developed to be compatible and mirror surrounding buildings and styles.
- Multiple architectural models are available that are designed to harmonize with the existing community and can be adapted based on existing site constraints.

### **Yolo County Reentry Facility**

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- Since mid-May 2008, Yolo County has been working with the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) to identify potential sites for location of a reentry facility Yolo County. Using the criteria set forth in AB 900, county staff has identified more than 100 parcels throughout the county that potentially meet the criteria. The primary goal is to find 8-15 acre sites that will not impact anyone in any negative way.
- The three potential sites the Board of Supervisor considered at their September 9 meeting included an industrial/commercial park east of the community of Madison (County Road 90 and State Route 16), a proposed (in the General Plan Update) industrial/commercial park southeast of the Esparto community (County Road 86a and State Route 16) and a site at the Yolo County Airport in the West Plainfield area (County Road 95). The Madison site was approved and forwarded to the state for their due diligence process
- According to CDCR's Web site, the facility would look industrial and not be easily identified as a place of incarceration (prison). It will not necessarily have the concertina fencing, towers, or other outward signs easily identifiable as such.
- The ~350 employees for this facility will be a mix of professionals living throughout the region, and administrative and other personnel. The non-professional personnel are especially likely to be local hires.
- Any employees that live in our local communities will increase the demand for services and retail opportunities, including: groceries, dentists, schools, dry cleaners, specialty retail, etc. To the extent facility employees pass through our communities on their commute to work, they will tend to frequent local services and retailers.
- CDCR uses local contractors for many of its supply items such as food, uniforms, and consumables supplies. This is a business opportunity for local vendors and suppliers.

### **Jail Expansion**

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- Currently the Yolo County jail, also known as the Monroe Detention Center is at capacity. The jail was opened in late 1988 with four housing pods and 234 beds. The county has added jail beds twice since – 79 to the main jail along with the opening of the 142-bed Leinberger minimum detention facility.
- Since the opening of the jail in 1988, the county's population has grown by 66%. Violent crime has increased by 21% since 2001. Daily bookings have risen by 29% since 2000.
- The jail facility averages 28-30 bookings per day with inmates coming in as a result of arrests, warrant surrenders, court remands and parole or immigration holds.

- The jail is full most days. The Sheriff's Department is under a federal court order prohibiting it from housing more inmates than there are beds.
- 3,000-3,500 inmates are released annually due to lack of space. In 2007, 3,304 inmates were released from the jail early due to space constraints.
- Under the Public Safety and Offender Rehabilitation Services Act of 2007 (AB 900), Yolo County submitted a proposal on March 18, 2008 for funding for expansion of the existing jail which included agreeing to assist the state in siting a reentry facility. The Board of Supervisors unanimously voted for the letter of proposal at the March 18, 2008 Board of Supervisor meeting.
- On September 18, 2008, the state Corrections Standards Authority (CSA) board finalized its conditional approval to grant the county \$30 million in funds for jail construction and now is further investigating the County Road 90 at State Route 16 (east of Madison) site to see if it is suitable for a reentry facility. Notice regarding suitability of this site is expected by the end of 2008.
- Yolo County's jail expansion project is estimated to cost \$42 million and the county is prepared to break ground almost immediately. The county may use Development Impact Fees, bonds or other funding to make up the \$12 million difference.
- The Yolo County jail complex currently houses 455 inmates. The jail expansion project would include adding 157 new beds with a visitor center to the Monroe facility, building a new kitchen and laundry facility, remodeling and expansion of the booking/release and administration area.
- The jail expansion project will also include a medical and mental health wing with room for 18 individuals and dorm-style beds, up from the current three-cell medical unit.
- Expansion plans also call for 18 holding cells for intoxicated or uncooperative arrestees – there are six now – and separate waiting rooms for cooperative male and female inmates as they wait to be booked.
- Number of bookings in Yolo County Jail per year: 10,000-12,000
- Parolees released in Yolo County in 2007: 936 (295=1<sup>st</sup> parole – 641=2<sup>nd</sup> parole [re-imprisoned])
- Incarceration rate: 0.02% of the county's population