

Resolution Opposing the West County Jail Expansion

Whereas, Contra Costa Sheriff, David Livingston states there is a need for the expansion due to the overcrowding at the Martinez jail, and proposes to add a new 120,000 square foot wing to the West County Detention Facility in Richmond that would accommodate 400 beds; and

Whereas the Sheriff plans to submit a proposal for a \$70 million grant from the Criminal Justice Facilities Construction Fund, and the County will contribute \$25 million dollars to the project - \$15 million from the Reserve Fund - and \$5 million annually to operate if the grant is approved; and

Whereas the host City of Richmond opposes the proposed expansion and has written a letter to the California Board of State and Community Corrections to express the City's opposition to the expansion; and

Whereas, this project would divert county resources and cause cuts in services and jobs for the Labor Council's six affiliated unions by spending that would be more effectively used in prevention programs, mental health, addition & recovery treatment programs and services, programs for at-risk populations, and jobs training programs;

Whereas the state and county resources should be invested in needed services that reduce jail populations and support successful reentry and reintegration, not continue the unsustainable, inequitable economic model of mass incarceration; and

Whereas the county BOS should invest county funds towards public services such as, transportation, mental health, healthcare, treatment programs, affordable housing and job creation instead of jail expansion; and

Whereas the community is still in need of a full-service acute care public hospitals with the closure of Doctors Medical Center in San Pablo and the

possible closure of Alta Bates Hospital in Berkeley and public funds would better serve residents by going towards addressing our health care crisis in our county;

Therefore be it resolved that the Contra Costa Labor Council recommends that the Board of Supervisors focus on funds for other needed services; including a full service hospital; and

Therefore be it further resolved that the Contra Costa Labor Council opposes the expansion of the jail, and commits to make every effort to redirect resources away from mass incarceration towards services.

Submitted by SEIU (1021, 2015 & UHW); ~~AFSCME DC 57 & Locals~~, and CNA