



COUNTY OF MARIN NEWS RELEASE

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COUNTY SUPERVISORS CHEER GOVERNOR'S DECISION TO DROP SAN QUENTIN PLAN

The Marin County Board of Supervisors cheered Governor Brown's announcement yesterday that he would be cancelling plans to build a new \$356 Million Condemned Inmate Housing facility at San Quentin state prison. "Given the State's daunting budgetary challenges and looming cuts to our social safety net, I applaud Governor Brown's decision to cancel this poorly-crafted, overpriced proposal", said Board of Supervisors President Susan Adams.

Local officials, including the County's Board of Supervisors, Assembly Member Jared Huffman, and State Senator Mark Leno have been working tirelessly for the past several years to oppose the previous administration's efforts to champion what many considered to be a financial boondoggle. Indeed, costs for the proposed project continued to escalate while the number of cells that could be provided was reduced. Local officials noted that the expanded facility would be filled just a few years after completion, with no further expansion possible. Coupled with the significant cost premiums for construction in the Bay Area, higher operating costs associated with the proposed facility would continue to drain increasingly limited State resources.

County Supervisors have repeatedly reminded State officials contemplating the project that the designated site within San Quentin is ideally situated for alternative uses. For example,

given the site's location along the Bay, it could one day provide a location for a deepwater ferry terminal, significantly shortening Golden Gate's run times and operating costs. "A mixed-use, mixed-income transit village surrounding a San Quentin transit hub, along with a spectacular public shoreline, would offer considerable economic development and housing opportunities for Bay Area residents" noted Supervisor Steve Kinsey.

According to the Governor, this project would have added another \$356 million to the state's debt, at an annual cost of \$28.5 million in debt service that would have come out of the State's General Fund. The Governor's Press Release can be found here:

<http://gov.ca.gov/news.php?id=17010>

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