

TO: James L. App, City Manager
FROM: Lisa Solomon, Chief of Police
SUBJECT: Paso Robles Juvenile Justice Facility Conversion Update
DATE: March 18, 2008

NEEDS: For the City Council to consider supporting the California Department of Correction and Rehabilitation's use of state property adjacent to the former El Paso de Robles Youth Correctional facility as the preferred site for a 500 bed joint re-entry facility, to house inmates from San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara and San Benito Counties in their final months of incarceration.

FACTS:

1. On January 3, 2008, the City was informed that the Governor's Budget proposal included closure of the Paso Robles Juvenile Justice facility (Youth Authority).
2. At the time of the announcement, possible alternative uses of the facility were briefly discussed.
3. The City was advised that the State was in the process of preliminary consideration for conversion to an adult correctional "re-entry" facility.
4. At a State-initiated meeting on March 3, it was announced that a likely reuse of the facility would be to house up to 1,000 medium risk adult male (over age 50) inmates.
5. At the same meeting, it was noted that a fire camp might be re-established as well. Generally, fire camps are populated with 80-200 low risk inmates (with an average age of 28).
6. Additionally, it was indicated that should the community also desire a re-entry facility, it could be considered.
7. On March 11, 2008 the S.L.O. County Board of Supervisors authorized an application to the State for grant funding to expand the Women's Jail. Part of the application offered S.L.O. County as a receiver site for a re-entry facility and specifically recommended Paso Robles as the receiver site.
8. California State Assembly Bill 900 requires secure re-entry facilities receive County and City resolutions of support.
9. In May 2008, San Benito County expressed an interest in joining San Luis Obispo County in locating a site for a secure reentry facility in Paso Robles. Negotiations commenced between San Luis Obispo County, San Benito County and the City of Paso Robles.

10. In August 2008, Santa Barbara County also took an interest in joining both San Luis Obispo and San Benito in locating a site for a secure reentry facility in Paso Robles.
11. Proposed State and County initiatives currently under consideration may result in two adult inmate facilities in place of the recently closed El Paso de Robles Youth Correctional Facility – a 1,000 bed medium risk facility, with 80-200 of those being assigned to a fire camp, and a 500 inmate re-entry facility.
12. These initiatives are, at present, independent of Paso Robles community impact analysis.
13. The City of Paso Robles has been engaged in discussions with CDCR and the Counties to ensure the City's public safety interests are properly protected. A Memorandum of Understanding could be developed to address programmatic concerns and mitigate any potentially negative community impacts.
14. An M.O.U. has not yet been agreed too. A funding deadline for the Counties and CDCR is approaching that would preclude potential jail funding awards if a resolution to support the Paso Robles re-entry facility is not adopted.
15. The City has tentatively agreed to support siting of the reentry facility at the Paso Robles location, provided a Memorandum of Understanding outlining all areas of concern can be executed within 180 days of the City passing a resolution of provisional support.

ANALYSIS &

CONCLUSION: The City is interested in continuing conversations with CDCR and the counties of San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara and San Benito to consider use of state property adjacent to the former El Paso de Robles Youth Correctional facility as the preferred site for a 500 bed joint re-entry facility. Details regarding programmatic issues and community impacts must be considered and mitigated to the satisfaction of all parties, and all have agreed to negotiate in good faith to execute such an agreement.

A separate yet parallel issue related to the City's support of a reentry site in Paso Robles, is a jail funding deadline for the involved counties. The counties and CDCR have a September 18, 2008 meeting with the Corrections Standards Authority to report progress on funding applications. Packages must include resolutions of support for reentry sites by all of the counties and the City. The City has agreed to recommend Council adopt a resolution of support, subject to the execution of a mutually acceptable Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) within 180 days of the resolution effective date. The MOU would address City concerns including, but not limited to, inmate release and transport procedures and commitment of programmatic resources. If an MOU is not executed within 180 days, the resolution of support will be considered void and of no force or effect.

POLICY

REFERENCE: None

FISCAL

IMPACT: Not yet determined.

OPTIONS:

- A. Approve Resolution 08-XXX conditionally supporting the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation's use of State property adjacent to the former El Paso de Robles Youth Correctional Facility as the preferred site for a Central Coast Regional Secure Community Reentry Facility.
- B. Amend, Modify or Reject the Option Above.

RESOLUTION NO. 08-XXX

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF
CORRECTIONS AND REHABILITATION'S USE OF STATE PROPERTY
ADJACENT TO THE FORMER EL PASO DE ROBLES YOUTH CORRECTIONAL
FACILITY AS THE PREFERRED SITE FOR A CENTRAL COAST REGIONAL
SECURE COMMUNITY REENTRY FACILITY

WHEREAS, California State Assembly Bill 900 authorizes the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) to construct, establish, and operate secure community reentry facilities throughout the State that will house up to a total of 16,000 inmates within one year of their scheduled release date; and,

WHEREAS, such facilities shall be secure facilities accommodating up to 500 beds each; and,

WHEREAS, legislation requires that secure community reentry facilities provide programs for inmates and parole violators that are tailored to the specific problems faced by this population when reintegrating into society; and,

WHEREAS, legislation requires that secure community reentry facilities receive county and city support in the jurisdictions in which they are located; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Paso Robles, the counties of San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, and San Benito and the CDCR have been in discussion regarding the siting of a joint 500 bed secure community reentry facility in the City of Paso Robles on CDCR property adjacent to the former El Paso de Robles Youth Correctional Facility; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Paso Robles, counties of San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, and San Benito and the CDCR have committed to negotiate in good faith to execute a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) within 180 days of the effective date of this resolution which MOU shall address, but is not limited to, the issues of inmate release and transport procedures and commitment of programmatic resources; and,

WHEREAS, if no Memorandum of Understanding is executed by all parties, to include the City of Paso Robles, the counties of San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, and San Benito, and the CDCR within the 180 day period, this resolution of support will be considered void and of no force or effect.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of El Paso de Robles that the Council hereby supports and will cooperate in facilitating CDCR's use of the State property adjacent to the former El Paso de Robles Youth Correctional Facility for a Secure Community Reentry Facility as described in AB 900 ("Proposed Secure Community Reentry Facility"), subject to the execution of a mutually acceptable MOU by the City of Paso Robles, counties of San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara and San Benito, and the CDCR within 180 days.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Paso Robles this 16th of September, 2008 by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

Frank R. Mecham, Mayor

ATTEST:

Deborah D. Robinson, Deputy City Clerk

RESOLUTION NO. 08-XXX