

CITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION NO. 86-15

**RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RICHMOND, CALIFORNIA IN
OPPOSITION OF THE WEST COUNTY DETENTION FACILITY EXPANSION
PROJECT**

WHEREAS, the City of Richmond is the hosting city of the West County Detention Facility, and

WHEREAS, the Contra Costa County Sheriff has presented the jail expansion plan to the city council upon the City of Richmond's request to gather information about the proposed jail expansion, and

WHEREAS, the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors is the ultimate decision-making body that will approve or not approve the grant submission and the BSCC is a state decision-making body responsible for disbursement of funds for jail construction projects from Senate Bill 863, and

WHEREAS, the State of California has built 21 state prisons since 1980 while investments in education and services were cut, and

WHEREAS, according to President Obama in his July 2015 speech to the NAACP, the United States has an inmate population 4 times as large as the inmate population of China despite the fact that China has roughly 4 times as many people as the United States does, and

WHEREAS, SB 863 (codified at Government Code section 15820 et seq.) provides for \$500 million to be financed through bonds and to be made available to various counties, but this \$500 million dollar fund, to be paid for by all taxpayers in the State of California, is not cash monies already set aside in the State budget, and

WHEREAS, the City of Richmond staff have reviewed the Draft Environmental Impact Report for the West County Detention Facility Expansion project, and have found significant short-comings therein, and

WHEREAS, the Contra Costa County sheriff has not responded to questions submitted by the City of Richmond regarding the jail expansion project, and

WHEREAS, the Sheriff's proposal is a significant increase in housing capacity, which contradicts the legislative purpose of the SB 863 funds. Government code section 15820.936 states that SB 863 funds are intended to replace existing jail housing capacity, realizing only a minimal increase in capacity, and only if the Sheriff can clearly document an existing housing capacity deficiency, and

WHEREAS, the Sheriff's proposal describes "no net increase in beds", without addressing the net increase in housing capacity that will result from his proposal to add 240 rooms to West County Detention Facility. Nowhere in his proposal does the Sheriff discuss the difference in meaning of actual number of beds versus housing capacity, and

WHEREAS, the Sheriff has not submitted any documentation or report which clearly demonstrates an existing jail housing deficiency. Indeed, the Sheriff's proposal – on the page titled "Overview of the County's Jail System" – describes 3 county jails which have excess housing in relation to the current jail population: MDF has an excess of 45 beds, WCDF has an excess of 491 beds, and Marsh Creek Detention Facility has an excess of 118 beds. The Sheriff's proposal does not explain the discrepancy between this excess in current jail housing, and his proposal to add a new wing to WCDF,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Richmond hereby directs staff to draft and submit a letter no later than August 15, 2015, to the BSCC and Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors stating that the City Council opposes the West County Detention Facility Expansion project. The statement will express the city's view that state and county resources should be invested in needed services that reduce jail populations and support successful reentry and reintegration. At this moment in time, public resources should not be committed to jail construction.

I CERTIFY that the foregoing resolution was adopted at a special meeting of the City Council on August 3, 2015 by the following vote:

- AYES: Councilmembers Beckles, Martinez, McLaughlin, Vice Mayor Myrick, and Mayor Butt.
- NOES: Councilmembers Bates and Pimplé.
- ABSTENTIONS: None.
- ABSENT: None.

PAMELA CHRISTIAN
CLERK OF THE CITY OF RICHMOND
(SEAL)

Approved:

TOM BUTT
Mayor

Approved as to form:

BRUCE GOODMILLER
City Attorney

State of California }
County of Contra Costa } : ss.
City of Richmond }

I certify that the foregoing is a true copy of **Resolution No. 86-15**, finally passed and adopted by the City Council of the City of Richmond at a special meeting held on August 3, 2015.



Pamela Christian, City Clerk of the City of Richmond