

TO: Board of Supervisors Agenda of: January 24, 2017
FROM: Russ Fackrell, Facilities Manager
DATE: January 24, 2017
RE: California Environmental Quality Act Review of the El Dorado County
Placerville Jail Expansion Project

REQUEST

Chief Administrative Office recommends the Board take the following action:

1. Adopt Resolution 2017-_____ adopting the Mitigated Negative Declaration and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program and making related findings in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) relating to the El Dorado County Jail Expansion Project at 300 Forni Road, Placerville, CA (see Exhibit A).

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

As discussed at the December 6, 2016 Board of Supervisors hearing, the Sheriff's Office is pursuing a grant from the Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) as authorized by Senate Bill 844 for the construction of adult local criminal justice facilities (ALCJF). Based upon the Needs Assessment prepared for the El Dorado County Placerville Jail by Vanir, County staff has conceptually designed an expansion project for the jail, which would be the subject of the ALCJF financing from the BSCC. Generally, the project consists of the development of a two-story structure, with a maximum floor area of 25,000 square feet (sf), which would be separate from, but attached to, the existing jail facility. The expansion would include space for medical and mental health facilities, inmate housing, administrative and staff support facilities, and inmate programs. The proposed mental health facility areas would include medical evaluation rooms and 14 medical beds. The proposed project would not increase the inmate capacity of the jail, but would instead allow for increased program space at the existing jail facility and more appropriate distribution of inmate housing throughout the jail.

In order to meet the mandated timeframes set forth in the Request for Proposals (RFP) issued by the BSCC for SB 844 funding, County staff is bringing the CEQA documents (IS/MND and MMRP) to the Board at this time for consideration of adoption, after which County staff will bring to the Board the resolution for approving the grant application and authorizing the Sheriff's Office to submit the application documents to the BSCC. Staff anticipates that the resolution for the grant documents will be brought to the Board at its February 14, 2017 meeting.

DISCUSSION:

Environmental Review

The RFP issued by the BSCC requires compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) as part of the grant application. CEQA compliance is among the factors considered by BSCC for funding preference, and is listed in the “Readiness to Proceed” section of the RFP. Consequently, the County retained Raney Planning and Management, Inc. to prepare an Initial Study environmental checklist, consistent with Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines, to determine the appropriate level of environmental review for the proposed project. Based upon the Initial Study checklist, the County determined that the appropriate CEQA document is a Mitigated Negative Declaration for the following reasons. The Initial Study identifies certain potentially significant effects, but there is no substantial evidence, in light of the whole record before the agency, that the project as mitigated may have a significant effect on the environment. More specifically, potentially significant impacts were identified for aesthetics, biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, hydrology and water quality, and noise. However, the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) includes feasible, fully enforceable mitigation measures to reduce all impacts to a less-than-significant level.

The County released a Notice of Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration (NOI) using the following method: publication of NOI in the Mountain Democrat on December 12, 14 & 16, 2016. Although the project is not considered to be of statewide, regional, or areawide significance, pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15206, the County also decided to submit the IS/MND to the State Clearinghouse for state agency review. The 30-day review period extended from December 13, 2016 to January 11, 2017. One comment letter was received from the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (CVRWQCB). The letter, dated December 23, 2016, is the agency’s standard letter and does not specifically address the Jail Expansion IS/MND. The proposed project’s compliance with the CVRWQCB’s Phase II MS4 permit is addressed in the Hydrology and Water Quality section of the IS/MND.

In compliance with CEQA Guidelines Section 15097, a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP) has been prepared for the project. The CEQA Resolution attached to this staff report recommends that the Board of Supervisors adopt the IS/MND and related MMRP for the Jail Expansion project.

Tribal Consultation

Consistent with Public Resources Code Section 20180.3.1(a), prior to the release of the IS/MND for public review, the County sent notification regarding the proposed project to tribes that are traditionally and culturally affiliated with the geographic area of the proposed project and that previously requested the County to provide formal notification of proposed projects in their geographic area. Two tribes, Wilton Rancheria and Shingle Springs Rancheria, responded to the County’s notification and requested formal consultation on the proposed project. Subsequently, the County contacted both tribes to initiate a consultation meeting. To date, only the Shingle Springs Rancheria has responded to the County’s invitation. The County met with Shingle Springs Rancheria on January 5, 2017 to discuss the project, the CEQA process, and the

mitigation measures included in the IS/MND to ensure that project construction will not result in adverse impacts to archaeological and tribal cultural resources (e.g., Mitigation Measures V-1(a,b) and V-2). The Shingle Springs Rancheria was pleased to see the requirement in Mitigation Measure V-2 to allow the tribe the ability to monitor ground-disturbing activities, if desired. To date, further correspondence has not been received.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

The requested action enables the County to apply for funds from BSCC for design and construction of the El Dorado County Placerville Jail Expansion Project. The cost of preparing the CEQA document and associated technical studies was \$21,808. These costs were covered by the Custody Services Special Revenue Fund. The financial impact of the overall Jail Expansion project will be discussed when a resolution to support the application is brought before the Board at a meeting in February 2017.

ATTACHMENT:

Attachment A – CEQA Resolution