

## ***Agenda 6- Draft for Discussion and Possible Action***

August 29, 2013

Mayor Edwin M. Lee  
City Hall, Room 200  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place  
San Francisco, CA 94102

Dear Mayor Lee:

We are pleased to express the support of the San Francisco Community Corrections Partnership (SFCCP) for the City and County of San Francisco's Replacement Jail Project proposal in response to a Request for Proposals issued pursuant to SB 1022 Correctional Facilities (2012).

The San Francisco Replacement Jail Project proposes to replace an existing, seismically-unsafe jail facility with a demonstrably safer, better designed and more effective replacement facility. In a seismically active area such as San Francisco, it is a question of when - and not if - a large seismic activity will occur. The existing jail facility scores a Seismic Hazard Rating of 3. A Seismic Hazard Rating of 3 indicates that, in the case of a major earthquake, both structural and nonstructural damage is expected in the building, and the damage could pose appreciable life hazards to the occupants of the building. A building with a Seismic Hazard Rating of 3 would have to be vacated during repairs, and possibly could not be repaired due to the extent of the damage and/or economic considerations, meaning significant life-endangering hazards to occupants in a major earthquake. For reference, the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake, which measured 6.9 on the Richter Scale, caused 63 deaths, 3,757 injuries, and an estimated \$6 billion in property damage. The U.S. Geological Survey predicts 62% probability of at least one magnitude 6.7 or greater earthquake in the 3-decade interval of 2003-2032 within the San Francisco Bay Area. In the case of a catastrophic event, it is estimated that the cost of renting interim facilities in neighboring Alameda County would be \$106 per day, per inmate, and the need for interim facilities would last approximately one year. With a need for 828 interim beds for the current capacity of the existing facility, this would cost \$87,768 per day or over \$32 million per year.

Beyond life-safety and structural issues, the existing jail facility is outdated and poorly designed. It employs a linear cell structure, which leads to challenges in supervising inmates and difficulty in assigning inmates to appropriate housing. As a result, this design increases risks of inmate violence, staff assaults, suicide, and limits the San Francisco Sheriff's Department's ability to provide programs to inmates. At the existing facility, inmates participate in an average of 35 hours of programming per week, compared with 60 hours per week of programming for inmates in the more modern San Francisco County Jail #5. Further, at the existing facility, only 20% of inmates participate in programming activities. In San Francisco County Jail #5, 80% of inmates participate in programming activities.

The San Francisco Replacement Jail Project would replace a dangerous, out-of-date facility with a more flexible, open floor, podular-cell structure that will be equipped with more mental health beds, better medical services, increased staffing efficiencies, better visitation facilities and better overall conditions.

**Agenda 6- Draft for Discussion and Possible Action**

The City and County of San Francisco is a proven leader in its approach to evidence-based practices and programming and alternatives to incarceration. The San Francisco Replacement Jail Project is an opportunity to not only build a seismically-safe facility, but also to build a facility that significantly contributes to the rehabilitation of inmates and, ultimately, will change lives, and reduce victimization.

Sincerely,

*Members of the San Francisco Community Corrections Partnership*

[Attachment: List of Members and Votes at August 29, 2013 meeting]