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OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK  
OAKLAND

# CITY OF OAKLAND

## AGENDA REPORT

To: Office of the City Administrator  
Attn: Dan Lindheim  
From: Police Department  
Date: March 22, 2011

Re: An Informational Report on the Feasibility of the Oakland Police Department Securing Funding Under Assembly Bill AB 900 To Rehabilitate the Oakland Jail Facilities Located at 600 Washington Street In Oakland

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### SUMMARY

Staff has prepared an informational report detailing the feasibility of the Oakland Police Department securing funding under AB 900 (Prison Construction and Rehabilitation Initiatives) to rehabilitate the Oakland jail facilities located at 600 Washington Street in Oakland. AB 900 precludes City jurisdictions from individually applying for funding through this initiative.

### FISCAL IMPACT

This is an informational report; therefore, no fiscal impacts are included.

### BACKGROUND

AB 900 Prison Construction and Rehabilitation Initiatives was signed into law on May 23, 2007 with the intent to relieve the significant overcrowding problems facing state prisons in California. AB 900 authorized a total of \$7.7 billion for a broad package of prison construction and rehabilitation initiatives, including Infill Bedding, Reentry Facilities, Health Facilities, Jail Bedding, and Infrastructure.

### KEY ISSUES AND IMPACTS

Staff has determined that securing funding under AB 900 is not a feasible option for the City of Oakland based on several factors.

#### *AB 900 Requirements*

A primary requirement of AB 900 is that applicants are county agencies. During the previous administration, Mayor Dellums attempted to secure funding through AB 900 and was unsuccessful due to this requirement. While the possibility of partnering with a county agency is an option, there are strict requirements and state guidelines the target facilities must follow, i.e., increase in bed count. Additionally, AB 900 requires the California Department of Corrections

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and Rehabilitation (CDCR) to improve and expand its drug treatment, academic education, and other rehabilitative programs for inmates and parolees.

#### *Excessive Costs to Rehabilitate Oakland City Jail*

While exact costs associated with rehabilitating the Oakland jail are not known at this time, staff estimates that millions of dollars would be required to first bring the jail into ADA compliance, prior to beginning the rehabilitative process. Additional costs include salary and benefits associated with hiring and training correctional officers, medical staff, sanitary workers, cooks, and other kitchen staff needed to operate a fully functioning jail facility.

A complete assessment of the jail facility is needed to accurately determine the true costs associated with rehabilitating the jail, and the feasibility of partnering with a county agency to seek funding to rehabilitate the Oakland City Jail through AB 900 initiatives.

#### *Oakland City Jail Closure*

In 2005, the Oakland City Jail was closed as a result of budgetary, code compliance, and safety concerns associated with running the jail. During that time, the net savings realized from the jail closure was estimated at over \$2 million annually (in direct costs). Additionally, there were health and safety issues connected to the infrastructure and condition of the jail.

Built in 1962, several areas within the facility had been identified as obsolete and out of compliance with state codes, posing significant threats of liability to the City. Specifically, the Oakland City Jail was not in compliance with the American with Disabilities Act (ADA). The City was presented with a deadline of to make the required modifications needed to come into ADA compliance; the ADA modifications were not made, and the deadline has exceeded.

Since that time, many changes have been made to the jail facility, which is currently used as a mass storage area for the Department. All of the bars have been removed from the cells (sold as scrap metal), and the dorms have been remodeled to facilitate space for defensive tactics training, as well as for use as a fitness center for sworn personnel.

It should be noted that just recently, Cal OSHA ordered closure of the jail facility as a result of health risks associated with the inadequate air quality within the facility.

### SUSTAINABLE OPPORTUNITIES

**Economic:** It is anticipated that rehabilitating the Oakland City Jail through use of AB 900 funds will have a negative impact on the City's long term budgetary goals to decrease spending and emerge from its current deficit.

**Environmental:** There are no environmental opportunities associated with this report.

**Social Equity:** There are no social equity opportunities associated with this report.

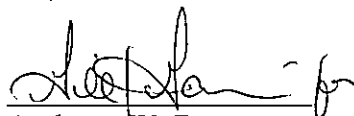
### DISABILITY AND SENIOR ACCESS

As previously stated, the deadline set for the City to make the necessary modifications to the jail facility, bringing it into compliance with laws governing ADA has expired; thereby creating much greater costs associated with the rehabilitation of the jail.

### RECOMMENDATION

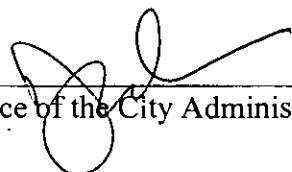
Staff recommends acceptance of this report.

Respectfully submitted,



Anthony W. Batts  
Chief of Police

APPROVED AND FORWARDED TO  
THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE:

  
Office of the City Administrator

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