## Statement on the Inmate Re-entry Facility

## By Supervisor Federal Glover

I STRONGLY OPPOSE locating any inmate reentry facility -- as being discussed – anywhere in Contra Costa County.

I recognize the need for reentry facilities and acknowledge the success they have had in turning inmates into productive citizens. However, many of the existing programs throughout the state are much smaller facilities housing approximately 30 to 120 rehabilitating inmates. The programs are generally contracted out to private nonprofit agencies. As such, they have less of an impact on existing communities.

The State is putting the County under the gun to approve this without appropriate studies and sufficient information. I don't believe we should rush into this decision blindly.

Under the proposal from the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, it is unclear if the State of California would grant waivers to a state project waivers for any conditions imposed by local communities, including the county.

In addition, the inmates housed in the existing reentry programs are those who would benefit from the rehabilitation programs required of them. At this point in time, it is unclear if the inmates who would be housed in these proposed facilities would be placed there because they can be rehabilitated or simply because the state needs to relieve its overcrowded prisons.

Lastly, the State's Legislative Analyst has also raised serious concerns and withheld recommendation of this proposal to the State Legislature. I quote from the Legislative Analyst's report on CDCR budget proposal:

"At the time this analysis was prepared, the department had not provided important fiscal and operational details regarding the proposal, such as specific facility locations, the length of stay and risk classification of inmates, the specific reentry programs that would be provided or required, or how the relatively expensive construction costs for these beds (\$229,000 to \$320,000 per bed) were estimated."

At a time when we are freezing county hiring, cutting social programs and reducing school funds, I find it extremely difficult to justify any expenditures towards correctional facilities or inmate reentry facilities without additional studies on the cost of construction and maintenance of these facilities, funding of these rehabilitation programs and the social and economic impact these facilities would have on our communities.

Having a prison in Contra Costa County is a risk our communities cannot afford. I will strongly fight any proposal to place a prison in our county.

For the reasons cited above, I am asking my fellow supervisors and my constituents to join me in opposing this proposal at the Feb. 26, 2008 Board of Supervisors' meeting.