



Contra Costa County
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Press Release

Supervisors turn down prison facility

MARTINEZ (Feb. 26) -- The Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors voted unanimously to not recommend any sites to the state for a re-entry facility for prisoners.

While they did not rule out future consideration for a re-entry facility for state inmates, the present proposal had too many unanswered questions to gain any support from the five supervisors. They expressed concern about future funding and the size of the facility.

East County Supervisor Federal D. Glover of District V brought the issue back to the board for reconsideration after a vote two weeks ago that allowed the county to study five sites recommended by staff. Rather than rushing into a decision because the state set a March 18 deadline for recommendations, the board decided to kill the proposal.

When making the motion to kill the proposal, Supervisor Glover said that having a prison in the County is a risk the community cannot afford and that there are too many questions regarding the facility's impact on the community and the uncertain cost of the programs serving the inmates.

Today, the board decided not to be included in the state program created by AB 900 that seeks to transfer inmates near the end of their term to a facility that would provide counseling, job training and housing to inmates before they are released from prison.

However, "Five-hundred beds is a huge facility," said Glover. "It is a prison -- no getting around it -- it is a prison." Most current re-entry facilities are around 30 to 40 beds and operated by private nonprofit agencies.

In a press conference before the vote, Glover admitted that he made a mistake by not publicly voicing his opposition to the Antioch site, which is located near three schools and a hospital.

He said his office has been inundated by hundreds of e-mails and phone calls opposing the prison in Antioch and supporting his stance against prisons.

Out of the five sites under consideration, the Antioch site generated the most heat. Antioch residents protested that the Antioch site is the middle of what the city hopes would be a "high-end" neighborhood and in proximity to about 5,000 students.