

YOLO COUNTY  
SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT  
PRESS RELEASE

Re: Sheriff Prieto Gives Talk on Jail Expansion and Reentry Facility Date: June 4, 2008
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Contact: Michele Wallace, Public Information Officer (530) 406-5163

This week Sheriff Ed Prieto gave an informative talk to the Davis Chamber of Commerce members. Sheriff Prieto discussed the Corrections Standards Authority (CSA) conditional award of \$30 million to Yolo County for a jail expansion, which is part of the Public Safety and Offender Rehabilitation Services Act Assembly Bill (AB) 900, and which includes the county's agreement to assist the state in siting a reentry facility.

The jail expansion project is estimated to cost \$42 million, with the county using Development Impact Fees, bonds or other funding to make up the difference in cost. The jail complex will have the ability to house 612 inmates, an addition of 157 inmates from the detention center's current ability, once it's completed. The building addition will include a visitor area, a new kitchen and laundry facility, remodeling and expansion of the booking, release and administration areas. The project will also include a medical and mental health unit. Sheriff Prieto stated, "Over 3,000 low to medium risk inmates are released each year due to overcrowding in the current facility. We are appreciative of the state funding for the county jail expansion and are prepared to break ground in the future."

Concurrently, the State of California may build a Reentry Facility in Yolo County. The state and county are in the process of identifying a location for the facility throughout Yolo County. Various architectural styles have been accessed. An unobtrusive design compatible to the surrounding area, void of towers and barbed wire fences, will be selected and it will have a completely secured perimeter. The facility will be operated by the state.

"Reentry facilities can be instrumental in the rehabilitation of inmates," stated Sheriff Prieto. "At this time there is a high recidivism rate among offenders. Many return to jail within the first year, partly because an inmate is released without any life or job skills. The Reentry Facility creates a case management plan for each offender, and then provides treatments and programs based on their needs and abilities. The amount of recidivism will hopefully be greatly reduced."

The basic program delivered in reentry facilities includes substance abuse treatment, aggression, hostility, anger and violence management, criminal thinking, behaviors and associations, academic, vocational, and financial education. There will also be family, marital, and relationship assistance.

The inmates who will be selected for transfer to a reentry facility will need to meet certain criteria which includes, but is not inclusive to, the following: the inmate must voluntarily want to be a part of the program; inmates performing certain types of convictions are excluded; and inmates must be within twelve to sixteen months of their release date.

“We want to help these offenders to have an objective frame of reference, to make a positive change in their lives. That is the purpose of the Reentry Facility. In turn, it will benefit the community as there will be a reduction in crime.” added Sheriff Prieto.

Sheriff Prieto, as a CSA appointee, has been working with other officials from various sized detention facilities, probation departments, and correctional programs in order to achieve continued improvement in the conditions of local detention facilities and to develop effective state and local corrections programs.