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CITY COUNCIL MEETING
FEBRUARY 15, 1989

RESOLUTION NO.
89-22 ADOPTED -
RESOLUTION OF
SUPPORT FOR MEASURE
A - ONE-HALF CENT
INCREASE IN SALES
TAX FOR TWENTY YEARS
TO BE USED FOR
CONSTRUCTION OF JAIL
AND RELATED FACILITIES,
JAIL OPERATIONS, AND
PREVENTION PROGRAMS

The City Council was reminded that the County's jail construction ballot measure (Measure A) goes before the voters in a special election March 7, 1989. It has been a topic of public discussion for many months.

CC-7(b)
CC-18
CC-19

~~CC-152~~
CC-300

The following information regarding the matter were presented to the City Council:

JAIL PROBLEMS AND PUBLIC SAFETY IN SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY

The Problem: Overcrowding

San Joaquin County has a worn-out, old jail, which lacks room to house all the people who should be jailed. The overall jail population is nearly two-thirds more than the state allows. The men's jail, designed for 356 inmates, operates at almost double that number. This overcrowding is a serious threat to the safety of staff and inmates. Because our jail does not meet state and national standards, federal courts could intervene. In other counties, federal courts have ordered the release of inmates or have seized control of money from other County programs such as libraries and parks to pay for a new jail.

The Solution: Jail Master Plan

A Citizens Jail Advisory Committee worked eighteen months to complete the policy framework for a Jail Master Plan, which includes housing 2,240 inmates by the year 1995. The Committee included 45 local community members, law enforcement and criminal justice professionals, and professional staff from San Joaquin County. In July 1987, the Jail Master Plan was adopted by the County Board of Supervisors. The plan triples the present number of beds approved by the state, builds a new jail, centralizes the Sheriff's headquarters and updates its technology, and remodels the honor farm where sentenced inmates are housed. Construction of the \$121 million project is planned to start in September 1989 and to finish in 1992. Our County's estimated cost per bed is about \$20,000 less than similar facilities recently built in Sacramento, Santa Clara, and Contra Costa Counties.