



CONTRA COSTA COUNTY OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF

DAVID O. LIVINGSTON

SHERIFF - CORONER

June 4, 2015

Senate Bill 863 Executive Steering Committee  
Board of State and Community Corrections  
600 Bercut Drive  
Sacramento, CA 95811

Re: SB 863/County Award History in Scoring Protocol

Dear Executive Steering Committee Members:

A new SB 863 Request for Proposal will be released by your Committee in the near future. Contra Costa County is expending significant resources in anticipation of applying for this round of funding. Our situation is serious. Among other things, we have acute safety concerns since the only housing we have for our high security inmates was not designed for the current population and is severely inadequate. It also lacks space for any meaningful reentry and treatment programs.

For several years we have been planning a project designed to replace the deficient housing with a new facility that provides appropriate housing and programming space. However, we have been unable to finance it. We were discouraged from participating in the AB 900 program because of the competition with other project needs at that time. We applied for financing under the SB 1022 program but were denied because of a technicality. We will be applying again under the SB 863 program.

I understand that SB 863 provides some legislative intent that is unique from the others. As you are aware, the legislation provides in Section 15820.936 (b), Chapter 3.131, Part 10b of Division 3, Title 2 of the Government Code;

*The BSCC may consider award history in Chapters 3.11 to 3.13, inclusive, in its scoring of adult local criminal justice facilities applications.*

I bring to the Committee's attention that Contra Costa County's award history is non-existent for funding under any of these programs, including SB 81. Thus, we have a keen interest in how this scoring criterion is applied.

I know it is incumbent upon my county to demonstrate the worthiness of our project, and we intend to do that. I only ask that the Committee consider the apparent intent of the legislation and adopt a scoring system that fully considers a county's award history, or lack thereof, such as is the case with Contra Costa County.

I understand and appreciate the many challenges you face in the important work of your Committee and I appreciate the opportunity to provide our input on SB 863 scoring.

Sincerely,

DAVID O. LIVINGSTON  
Sheriff - Coroner