

MONTEREY COUNTY RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AGENCY

Carl P. Holm, AICP, Director

Building Services / Environmental Services / Planning Services / Public Works & Facilities
168 W. Alisal Street, 2nd Floor
Salinas, California 93901

(831)755-4800

www.co.monterey.ca.us/rma



MEMORANDUM

Date: February 7, 2017

To: Legislative Committee

From: Donald D. Searle, RMA-Acting Chief of Public Works and Facilities

Subject: Old Monterey County Jail Adaptive Reuse/SHPO Visit 1/26/2017

1. The current status of the adaptive reuse of the Old Jail Site located at 142 W. Alisal Street, Salinas is that the County evaluated nine Schemes for possible adaptive reuse during a study conducted by an architectural historic preservation consultant in 2014. These Schemes were vetted thorough multiple stakeholder meetings as well as Capital Improvement and Budget Committee presentations in 2015 and 2016.
2. On September 13, 2016, the Board of Supervisors selected a Preferred Option for a project at the Old Jail Site to establish a project description needed as part of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review process. The Preferred Option for a project at the Old Jail Site is to demolish the Old Jail, remove the existing Alisal/Capital Street Parking Lot, create a new urban space for civic engagement while commemorating the historicity of the site, and relocate and/or expand parking. The Schemes evaluated for reuse will be included as alternatives in the Environmental Impact Report (EIR).
3. On January 26, 2017, the County hosted a visit with Julianne Polanco, the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), Office of Historic Preservation to visit the Old Monterey County Jail (Site). The purpose of the visit was to provide the SHPO with a physical orientation regarding recent efforts by the County to facilitate adaptive reuse of the Site. The visit included a walk around the Old Jail, an aerial view of the Site from the third floor of the Government Center, and a PowerPoint presentation of the adaptive reuse options considered by the Board that precipitated the selection of the Preferred Option. The SHPO indicated that the State Office of Historic Preservation's purpose is to ensure that the interest of the public is observed by completing the CEQA process and the EIR. Further, the EIR must address the Site's historic role in the United Farm Works of America (UFWA) Union Movement and the incarceration of Cesar Chavez at the Site in 1970.
4. The next step is to find funding necessary to conduct the EIR as part of the CEQA process in the upcoming fiscal year. Upon completion of the CEQA process, the County will be prepared to begin a project for the adaptive reuse of the Site pending Board of Supervisor's adoption of the EIR along with the necessary funding.