

# JUSTICELA



## THE BAIL PROJECT

## REVOLVE I M P A C T

Updated: January 17, 2019

December 14, 2018

Via E-Mail

Sheriff Alex Villanueva  
Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department  
Hall of Justice  
211 W. Temple Street  
Los Angeles, California 90012

Re: Proposed Women's Jail in Mira Loma

Dear Sheriff Villanueva:

The JusticeLA Coalition, an alliance of organizations, advocates and community members impacted by incarceration, and the ACLU SoCal strongly oppose the construction of a new women's jail in Lancaster. We applaud you for speaking against this misguided, harmful and backwards plan during your campaign for sheriff of LA and for your reiterating your opposition publicly since becoming sheriff. You are taking office at a critical time when you have the opportunity to prevent a disaster for Los Angeles County.

The topic of jail construction in Los Angeles will appear on the Board of Supervisors' agenda on Tuesday, January 29, 2019. We call on you, as Sheriff, to appear and tell the Supervisors that they should not move forward with relocating almost 2,000 people who are housed at the Century Regional Detention Facility (CRDF) to Lancaster, which is almost 90 miles away from Downtown Los Angeles.

Building jail cells through the proposed Mira Loma jail or the Consolidated Correctional Treatment Facility (CCTF), replacement to Men's Central Jail, will not resolve LA County's problem of imprisonment. This crisis of imprisonment must be solved through community based investments, alternatives to imprisonment, and decriminalization efforts. For reasons you understand and shared while you campaigned, the specific proposal for a new women's jail represents an additional threat to public health and safety:

- It will be located almost 90 miles away from Downtown Los Angeles, [further isolating women from their families, communities and supportive services.](#)

- The women's jail is slated to be built in Lancaster, located in the area of L.A. County most prone to [Valley Fever](#), an incurable disease caused by an airborne fungal spore that infects the lungs when inhaled. California's incarcerated populations contract Valley Fever eight times more frequently than the general population.
- It will [disproportionately impact LGBTQ women](#), who are 35.7% of women in jails and only 4.5% of the general population.
- Los Angeles County jails are already the largest mental health institution in the world, diverting much needed resources away from community-based treatment. [75% of women in jails suffer from mental health issues](#). Women with mental health needs should not be treated in jail -- it is not cost effective and triggers or worsens mental illness, as well as substance abuse. Moving them to more appropriate community placements will dramatically reduce the need for any jail construction for women.
- [42% of people caged in Los Angeles jails are legally innocent](#), held without a conviction, often because they cannot afford money bail. By implementing a public health model to pretrial reform that works in collaboration with community-based health care providers to assess need and provide services, Los Angeles can take steps to preserve the presumption of innocence while dramatically reducing its jail population.
- People experiencing homelessness are arrested at seventeen times the rate of the general population, mostly for non-serious offenses like failure to appear or jaywalking. [Formerly incarcerated people are almost 10 times more likely to be homeless](#). This practice does nothing but feed the cycle of incarceration and homelessness.

We call on you to send a public letter to all members of the Board of Supervisors making clear your opposition to the women's jail plan and any current plans for jail construction in LA County by January 18th. **We also ask you to appear before the Board of Supervisors on January 29th** in order to tell them that they should not move forward with the planned jail construction of the Mira Loma and CCTF jails and act to the greatest extent that your authority allows to prevent it from ever coming to fruition. If you are not able to appear personally, we urge you to either send a representative from your department to appear and oppose the jail plan on your behalf or send the above-mentioned letter to all members of the Board making clear your opposition to jail construction in Los Angeles and make the letter public.

Sincerely,

#JusticeLA

ACLU of Southern California  
 Advocates Delivering Love  
 Alliance of Californians for Community Empowerment (ACCE)  
 AWARE-LA  
 A New PATH  
 Beach Cities Democratic Club  
 Black Community Clergy and Labor Alliance  
 Black Lives Matter: Los Angeles  
 Blackout for Human Rights

Burbank Democratic Club  
California Calls  
California Coalition for Women Prisoners  
California Partnership  
California Immigrant Policy Center  
California Immigrant Youth Justice Alliance  
Californians United for a Responsible Budget (CURB)  
Center for Popular Democracy  
CLUE: Clergy and Laity United for Economic Justice  
Code Pink  
Collective REMAKE  
Committee for Racial Justice  
Community Bridge Housing Corp  
Community Coalition  
Cornerstone Theatre Company  
Critical Resistance LA  
Defend Movement  
Dignity and Power Now  
Drug Policy Alliance  
East Area Progressive Democrats (EAPD)  
End Solitary Santa Cruz County  
Fair Chance Project  
Garment Worker Center  
Gender Justice LA  
Ground Game  
Homies Unidos  
Immigrant Youth Coalition-San Gabriel Valley  
Immigrant Youth Coalition-Free The People Network  
Jasmyne Cannick, Journalist, Writer and Media Commentator  
Jobs R 4 U  
JustLeadership USA  
Justice Environmental Coalition  
JusticeNotJails  
Justice Warriors 4 Black Lives  
Justice Workgroup  
LA CAN (Los Angeles Community Action Network)  
LA VOICE  
Legal Services for Prisoners with Children  
Liberty Tree Foundation for the Democratic Revolution  
March And Rally Los Angeles  
March for Racial Justice  
National Day Laborer Organizing Network  
ONE WAY UP  
Our Revolution Los Angeles  
Presente  
Progressive Asian Network for Action (PANA)  
Queer People of Color and Allies Task Force  
Restore the Delta

Revolve Impact  
SEIU USWW  
Stop LAPD Spying Coalition  
The Bail Project  
The California National Organization for Women  
The Labor Community Strategy Center  
The Prisoner Hunger Strike Solidarity Coalition (PHSS)  
The Sober Living Network  
The TransLatin@ Coalition  
The Youth Justice Coalition  
United Way of Greater Los Angeles  
USC Race and Equity Center  
West L.A. Democratic Club  
White People 4 Black Lives / SURJ Affiliate Los Angeles