

**Initial Study/Negative Declaration
Addendum to November 2014 Negative Declaration**

ADDENDUM SUMMARY

PROJECT NAME:	Mendocino County Jail Expansion	FILE NUMBER:
SITE ADDRESS:	951 Low Gap Road, Ukiah, CA	APN: 001-020-11 & 001-020-77
APPLICANT	County of Mendocino Attn: Captain Tim Pearce 951 Low Gap Road Ukiah, CA 95482 pearcet@mendocinocounty.org	PHONE: (707) 463-4559 FAX No. (707) 463-6323
PROPERTY OWNER:	County of Mendocino Attn: Steve Dunncliff 501 Low Gap Road, Room 1010 Ukiah, CA 95482 dunnicl@s@mendocinocounty.org	Negative Declaration: SCH #: 2014082034 Circulated by SCH 08/12/2014 to 09/10/2014

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The County of Mendocino proposes to expand the Mendocino County Jail In Ukiah, California. The purpose of the expansion is to centrally locate the acute mentally ill, the acute medically ill, people withdrawing from alcohol and drugs, and maximum security classification of inmates. The expansion would include the construction of single-story building to accommodate the space requirements for a 60-bed facility and 30 additional beds in the future.

This expansion responds to California’s legislation requiring shifted responsibilities from overcrowded and expensive state prison system to the counties. The reform eliminates returning technical parole violators to state prisons’ and designates offenses that are now punishable by jail sentences instead. AB109 and AB117 enable California to close the revolving doors of inmates cycling in and out of state prisons.

The Mendocino County Jail is located at 951 Low Gap Road, situated on the south side of Low Gap Road, approximately 500+/- feet East of the intersection of Low Gap Road and Despina Drive, located within the City of Ukiah. The current Mendocino County Jail is a Type II facility as described in California Code of Regulations, Title 15. It is used for detention of persons pending arraignment, during trial, and upon sentence to a commitment. The jail is currently comprised of two buildings. One of the buildings was constructed in 1985 and had a rated capacity of 86 inmates. By 1987, in reaction to crowded conditions, two additional bunks were added to 34 cells making them triple bunked cells and increasing jail capacity to 154. In 1991, a second building was constructed to eliminate other, older housing units increasing the jail capacity to 295. Since 1991, an additional six isolation beds bring the current capacity to 301 beds.

The new housing would alleviate capacity short falls at the Mendocino County Jail, improve safety and

living conditions caused by the severe overcrowding, allow for better segregation of inmates by security classification, and aid jail staff in controlling the prison environment in order to provide inmates access to programs focused on stabilizing the inmates' personal lives, obtaining employment, education, and counseling.

Specifically, the revised project will result in a stand-alone building addition to the existing County Jail complex, which is located on County owned land immediately east of the existing jail complex where the current County Fleet and Facilities parking area is situated (Assessor's Parcel Numbers 001-020-11 and 001-020-77), located within the City of Ukiah. The new building will consist of a single-story building, consisting of 23,195 square feet, and including a housing unit and public visiting center. The housing unit will include 60 rated beds expandable to 90; a safety cell, respiratory isolation cell, recreation yards, housing unit control; nursing station; medical exam room; dental exam room; program/group rooms and staff support space. The new public visiting center will include contact and non-contact visiting rooms for families and attorneys. The project will include, but is not limited to, electrical; plumbing; mechanical; heating; ventilation, and air conditioning; security; site improvements, fire protection systems; security fencing and all other necessary appurtenances.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING:

Currently the Mendocino County Jail operates from a 35.7 acre complex located on the south side of Low Gap Road, within the City of Ukiah, California (APN's 001-020-11 & 001-020-77). The surrounding land uses include the Russian River Cemetery to the north; the Ukiah Municipal Golf Course and Orr Creek to the South; two (2) little league baseball fields and the Mendocino County campus to the East; and Orr Creek School to the west.

The proposed new stand-alone jail building is to be located east of the existing jail complex, within the General Services complex; see attached map.

DETERMINATION:

The California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Chapter 3 (CEQA Guidelines), specifically Section 15162, states when an EIR has been certified or negative declaration adopted for a project, no subsequent EIR shall be prepared for that project unless the lead agency determines, on the basis of substantial evidence in the light of the whole record, one or more of the following:

- (1) Substantial changes are proposed in the project which will require major revisions of the previous EIR or negative declaration due to involvement of new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects;
- (2) Substantial changes occur with respect to the circumstances under which the project is undertaken which will require major revisions of the previous EIR or negative declaration due to involvement of new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects; or
- (3) New information of substantial importance, which was not known and could not have been known with the exercise of reasonable diligence at the time the previous EIR was certified as complete or the negative declaration was adopted, shows any of the following:

- (A) The project will have one or more significant effects not discussed in the previous EIR or

negative declaration;

- (B) Significant effects previously examined will be substantially more severe than shown in the previous EIR;
- (C) Mitigation measures or alternatives previously found not to be feasible would in fact be feasible and would substantially reduce one or more significant effects of the project, but the project proponents decline to adopt the mitigation measure or alternative; or
- (D) Mitigation measures or alternatives which are considerably different from those analyzed in the previous EIR would substantially reduce one or more significant effects on the environment, but the project proponents decline to adopt the mitigation measure or alternative.

An Initial Study and Negative Declaration, prepared by Potomac – Hudson Engineering, Inc., dated November 2014 for the expansion of the Mendocino County Jail. The Negative Declaration was circulated through the State Clearinghouse from August 12, 2014 through September 10, 2014. On September 11, 2014, the County of Mendocino was notified by the Governor's Office of Planning and Research, State Clearinghouse and Planning Unit that the Negative Declaration was submitted to State agencies for review. It was further noted that the review period closed on September 10, 2014, and that no state agencies submitted comments by the end of the review period. The State Clearinghouse further acknowledged that the Negative Declaration was in compliance with Clearinghouse review requirements pursuant to CEQA.

The Negative Declaration concluded that the proposed project, the expansion of the Mendocino County Jail, would be constructed within the existing security perimeter. The expansion would be consistent with existing land use in the area and would have a negligible effect on surrounding properties. There would be no impacts to Physiography, Wetlands, Floodplains, Biological resources, Protected Species, Cultural and Archeological Resources, Farmland Protection, Demographics and Environmental Justice, Land use and Recreation, Education, community Services, Water Supply, Wastewater Supply, Wastewater Disposal, Energy Supply, Solid Waste, Hazardous Materials, Transportation, Air Quality and Climate Change (Greenhouse Gases), or Noise and Light Pollution.

It should be noted that the current proposal will not result in any changes related to construction of the new Jail Expansion Facility. The proposal is merely to relocate the expansion of the proposed building and locate it immediately east of the existing jail facility, within existing County facilities. In addition, there have been no substantial changes to the existing jail facility or surrounding properties since the review conducted by the 2014 Negative Declaration.

The Project will not result in any new significant adverse impacts to the physical environment or in any increase in the severity of any previously identified potentially significant impacts of the project. There are no substantial changes in the Project included in the 2014 Negative Declaration. There are also no substantial changes with respect to the circumstances under which the Project will be undertaken that require major revisions of the 2014 Negative Declaration.

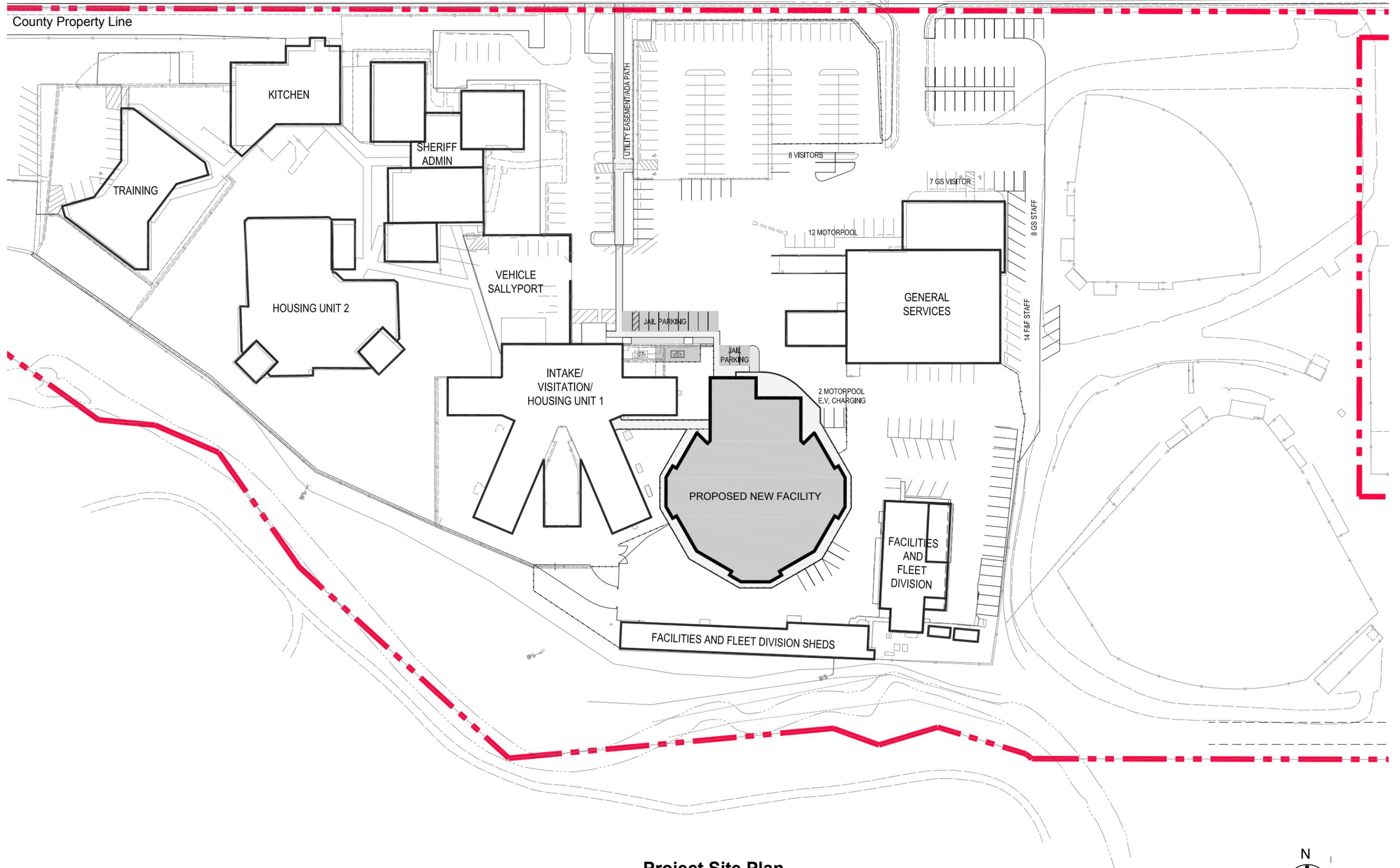
Therefore, the County can make the finding that an Addendum to the 2014 Negative Declaration will be the appropriate environmental document to be prepared for this Project pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Public Resources Code, § 21000 et seq.; California Code of Regulations, Title 14, § 15000 et seq. (CEQA Guidelines)).

PUBLIC/RESPONSIBLE/TRUSTEE AGENCY REVIEW:

A copy of the Initial Study, the Negative Declaration, and the Addendum prepared for the Project, may be reviewed at the Mendocino County Sheriff's Department, 951 Low Gap Road, Ukiah, CA 95482, pursuant to Public Resources Code § 21166; CEQA Guidelines, §§§ 15164, 15162, 15105

Low Gap Road

County Property Line



Project Site Plan
Mendocino County Jail Project