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CSAC SUPPORTS GOVERNOR'S ORIGINAL JAIL FUNDING PROPOSAL

SACRAMENTO – The California State Association of Counties (CSAC) remains in strong support of the Governor's January budget proposal to dedicate an additional $500 million to a jail construction program modeled after SB 1022 (2012) that prioritized programming and treatment space.

The second round of funding recognizes that the implementation of 2011 public safety realignment fundamentally changed the county jail function and that local detention facilities are wholly inadequate to provide the treatment and rehabilitative services needed to support better community reintegration, improved offender outcomes, and strengthened public safety. Dedicated funding for building the right jail capacity is but one element of a more comprehensive budget package that demonstrates the Governor's commitment to strengthening counties' ability to manage new criminal justice responsibilities over the long term.

Indeed, the report published earlier this week by the Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC) identifies the need for significant additional investment over the next several decades to meet California's jail capacity demands. The investment in building the next generation of jail facilities – facilities that can accommodate longer-term jail inmates as well as offer the space for programming, medical or behavioral health treatment, visitation, or exercise needed to safely and compassionately manage the jail population – remains a top priority for California's counties.

The California State Association of Counties is the voice of California's 58 counties at the state and federal level.

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