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TO: Marc Estvold, Skagit County Coordinating Council, Public Safety Jail Project

FROM: Gail Elias, Principal, Voorhis Associates, Inc.

DATE: September 14, 2012

RE: Requested Update to 2012 Public Safety Master Plan

This memo provides the information you requested in your email of the above date.

Item 1: Decline in Incarceration Rates in 2011

In 2011, the Bureau of Justice Statistics reported a decline in the national incarceration rate from 242/100,000 to 236/100,000. They also note that more than half of the decline in the national jail population came from the largest jails (holding more than 1,000 inmates). Skagit County's incarceration rate (based on the State's estimate of 2011 population) is 182/100,000 a decrease from 183/100,000. Regional data could be computed from the WASPC website, but I am not certain that would add much to the discussion. There have been modest decreases in the national rate since 2007 and I'd expect the same in state.

Item 2: Size Recommended if Change in the Historical Incarceration Rate Pattern from 1988 – 2010 was Used

In all cases, I've used the "best guess" baseline as the estimate of County population. Remember that number falls about 25% below the State's median estimate of population. As a result, if I applied this changed incarceration rate to the median population estimate, the result would be approximately 105% of the estimates that follow.

Best Guess Baseline with Historical Incarceration Rate (1988 - 2010)				
Year	County Population	Expected Incarceration Rate	Expected ADP	Required Capacity
2010	116,901	183	214.00	246
2015	118,477	203	240.32	276
2020	124,254	223	276.61	318
2025	131,537	242	318.84	367
2030	139,194	262	364.92	420
2035	146,984	282	414.42	477
2040	155,193	302	468.25	538

The change in incarceration rate using this model is just under 4 inmates per 100,000 per year. It does result in a lower ADP and reduced capacity. Looking at the 2015 expected ADP and capacity requirements, the only caution I would note is that the County's 2009 in-facility ADP was 237 and ADP under supervision exceed 250.

	Best Guess Baseline with Reduced Incarceration Rate (1988 - 2010)			
Year	County Population	Expected Incarceration Rate	Expected ADP	Required Capacity
2010	116,901	183	214.00	246
2015	118,477	199	235.57	271
2020	124,254	215	266.65	307
2025	131,537	230	303.03	348
2030	139,194	246	342.62	394
2035	146,984	262	384.98	443
2040	155,193	278	430.96	496

I have the same concern about this model.

Item 3: Size Recommended if Change in the Historical Incarceration Rate Pattern from 1988 – 2003 was Used

	Best Guess Baseline with Historical Incarceration Rate (1988 - 2003)			
Year	County Population	Expected Incarceration Rate	Expected ADP	Required Capacity
2010	116,901	183	214.00	246
2015	118,477	207	245.28	282
2020	124,254	231	287.02	330
2025	131,537	255	335.37	386
2030	139,194	279	388.25	446
2035	146,984	303	445.21	512
2040	155,193	327	507.27	583

This model results in an annual change of the incarceration rate of 4.79 inmates per 100,000.

	Best Guess Baseline with Reduced Incarceration Rate (1988 - 2003)			
Year	County Population	Expected Incarceration Rate	Expected ADP	Required Capacity
2010	116,901	183	214.00	246
2015	118,477	202	239.60	276
2020	124,254	221	275.11	316
2025	131,537	241	316.45	364
2030	139,194	260	361.56	416
2035	146,984	279	409.98	471
2040	155,193	298	462.64	532

	Forecast Model	Incarceration Rate Pattern	2030 Housing Capacity	2040 Core Capacity
1	Baseline-Low Population Estimate	1984-2010	407	523
2	Baseline-Median Population Estimate	1984-2012	483	643
3	Baseline-High Population Estimate	1984-2013	600	833
4	Baseline-"Best Guess" Population Estimate	1984-2011	464	613
5	Lower Incarceration Rate-"Best Guess" Population Estimate	1984-2014	431	557
6	Baseline-"Best Guess" Population Estimate	1988-2010	420	538
7	Lower Incarceration Rate-"Best Guess" Population Estimate	1988-2010	394	496
8	Baseline "Best Guess" Population Estimate	1988-2003	446	583
9	Lower Incarceration Rate-"Best Guess" Population Estimate	1988-2003	416	532
	Recommended 2012		428	600

The above table compares the four new scenarios with the five previously developed and included in the 2010 master plan update. When developing estimates of future population, it is very easy to get focused on a specific point in time – and a specific number that is perceived as the "right" number. In my experience, it is more productive to think of these estimates as establishing a ***range*** within which the true "right" number can be found.

1) If I apply that approach, the nine scenarios establish a 2030 housing capacity range from a low of 394 – 600 and a 2040 core range of 496 – 833.
2) As I suggested yesterday, scenarios 1 (Baseline-Low Population Estimate) and 3 (Baseline-High Population Estimate) do not seem realistic to me. If I exclude those, then the 2030 housing capacity range falls between 394 and 483 and the 2040 core ranges between 496 and 543.
3) The 428 housing capacity recommended lies approximately halfway between the remaining estimates. I continue to think that this number makes sense because it is built around the most efficient staffing pattern we developed.
4) I also think the core that I've suggested makes sense because it gives the County greater flexibility.

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