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Hon. Hilda Solis, Supervisor, First District
County Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: Consolidated Correctional Treatment Facility (Men's Central Jail Replacement Project)

Dear Supervisor Solis:

We wish to offer the following comments on the proposed replacement of the Men's Central Jail with the planned Consolidated Correctional Treatment Facility. We applaud the vision set forth in this proposal to shift away from reliance on incarceration with programs to help rebuild lives, reduce recidivism and enhance public safety. The concept of targeting treatment and rehabilitation for inmate-patients with improved medical, mental and life skills programs is an impressive step forward for Los Angeles County and can indeed help to reduce needless incarceration, re-equip individuals to lead more productive lives, and impact the cycles of chronic and repeated homelessness that plague so many of our local residents.

At the same time, we question whether repositioning this complex on the edge of Downtown and readily proximate to Skid Row, is the most appropriate and beneficial location for such a facility. Especially from the perspectives of those of us who have worked with and for local service providers and related community organizations, and counting among us participants in the 2006 Bring LA Home Program to address homelessness and the Skid Row community, it is clear that -- despite efforts to create a healthful and livable neighborhood for a wide range of individuals with special medical, mental health and other needs in the Skid Row area -- this is not the most appropriate neighborhood for such individuals.

While we who are most involved in that community remain committed to its continued role of serving as a key place of services and housing of last resort, we also recognize that persons being treated in, and then likely to be discharged from, the Consolidated Correctional Treatment Facility would not be well served by proximity to and discharge back into the Skid Row environment. We feel that the Consolidated Correctional Treatment Facility would better serve its clients in a less urbanized location where a more healthful surrounding environment could favorably support the treatment regimens of the Facility and its inmates-patients.

Thus, we respectfully request the County consider locating all or a majority portion the Facility on other County property not immediately adjacent to Downtown and almost adjacent to Skid Row. We note that the County could also look at repositioning the current Jail properties for other uses that could generate additional revenue to the County, and thus further enhance the ability of the County to provide a greater range and depth of services to needy populations.

Very truly yours,

To be voted on by Board of Directors 6/12/2018
Patricia Berman, President DLANC

Wendell Blassingame, Chair Urban Needs

cc: Honorable Members, Board of Supervisors; Sheriff Jim McDonnell