

# EXPANSION OF THE MENDOCINO COUNTY JAIL, CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS



November 2014

INITIAL STUDY/NEGATIVE DECLARATION

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## 1.0 PURPOSE AND NEED FOR THE PROPOSED PROJECT

### 1.1 PURPOSE OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT

In 2003, a draft Environmental Assessment to evaluate the impacts of a proposed expansion of the Mendocino County Jail was prepared in accordance with the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) *Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)* (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508 and the guidelines of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (California Public Resource Code, Division 13). NEPA was required because Federal government grant funding under the Violent Offender Incarceration and Truth-in-Sentencing (VOI/TIS) Incentive Program (VOI/TIS). The expansion did not come to fruition. The source of funding for the current Proposed Project in 2014 is State of California lease revenue bond sales; therefore, only CEQA applies. This current Initial Study (IS) satisfies the requirements of CEQA, and was used to determine whether preparation of a Negative Declaration (ND) was appropriate.

Mendocino County proposes to expand the Mendocino County Jail Mendocino County Jail (MCJ) in Ukiah, California (see Figure 1). The proposed facility expansion includes construction of 90 new maximum security beds in three pods with one recreation yard in each pod, a classroom, a visitors' center, and a medical exam/procedure room. A pod is an individual, self-contained housing units arranged around a centralized outdoor yard in a "campus". The pod contains tiers of cells laid out in an open pattern arranged around a central control station from which a single corrections officer can monitor all of the cells and the entire pod.

The new housing would alleviate capacity short falls at MCJ, improve safety and living conditions caused by the severe overcrowding, allow for better segregation of inmates by security classification, and aid MCJ 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 emotional counseling. The proposed facility would be constructed on and within the existing fenced perimeter of MCJ, and would consist of the elements described in Section 1.4 of this Initial Study/Negative Declaration (IS/ND). Construction of the MCJ expansion would be wholly funded by State of California lease revenue bond sales.

### 1.2 PURPOSE OF THIS INITIAL STUDY/NEGATIVE DECLARATION

The County of Mendocino Sheriff's Office is the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for the proposed Construction of an Expansion of the Mendocino County Jail Project (the "Project") located at 951 Low Gap Road, Ukiah, CA 95492. In accordance with Section 15070 through Section 15075 of the CEQA Guidelines, this IS/ND has been prepared by the County of Mendocino.

Section 15070 of the CEQA Guidelines states the following with respect to the preparation of a Negative Declaration:

*"A public agency shall prepare or have prepared a proposed negative declaration or mitigated negative declaration for a project subject to CEQA when:*

*(a) The initial study shows that there is no substantial evidence, in light of the whole record before the agency, that the project may have a significant effect on the environment, or*

*(b) The initial study identifies potentially significant effects, but:*

*(1) Revisions in the project plans or proposals made by, or agreed to by the applicant before a proposed mitigated negative declaration and initial study are released for public review would avoid the effects or mitigate the effects to a point where clearly no significant effect would occur, and*

*(2) There is no substantial evidence, in light of the whole record before the agency that the project as revised may have a significant effect on the environment."*

**FIGURE 1 MENDOCINO COUNTY JAIL FACILITY**



As prescribed in Section 15070, an IS has been prepared that analyzes the potential project-related impacts anticipated with construction of an expansion of the MCJ. Pursuant to Section 15071 of the CEQA Guidelines, the IS/ND includes:

- A description of the proposed project (refer to Section 2.0)
- The location of the project (refer to Section 2.1)

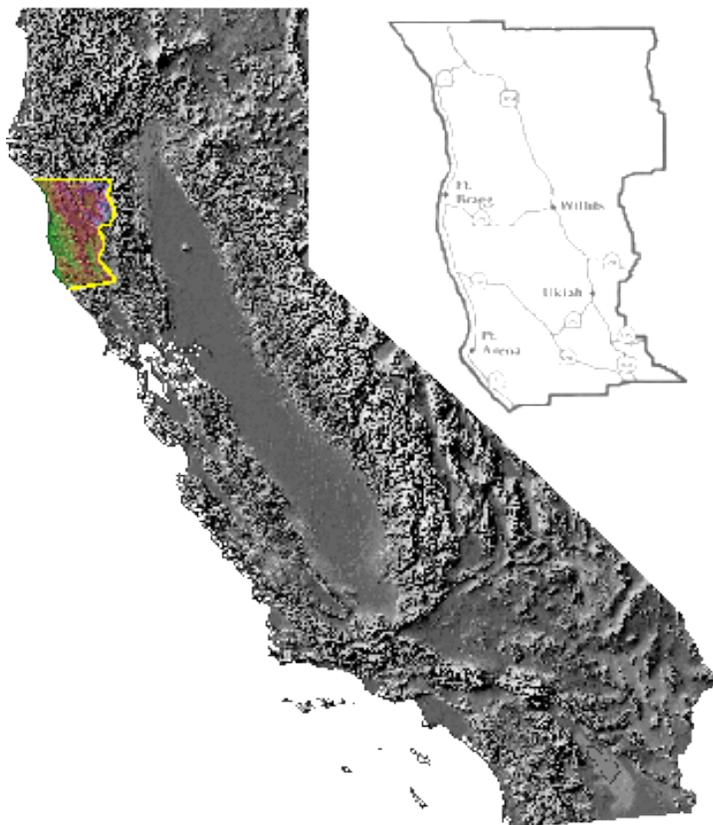
- A determination of significance for each environmental resource discussed in Section 4.0 in the form of the CEQA environmental checklist (Appendix B)
- Descriptions and analyses of environmental resources and factors potentially affected by project implementation (Refer to Section 4.0)
- A proposed finding that the project will not have a significant effect on the environment (refer to Section 3.0)
- Mitigation measures (refer to Section 4.22)

The range of potential environmental impacts that could occur as a result of the Proposed Project has defined the scope of this IS/ND. In keeping with the intent of CEQA regulations, existing environmental conditions have been considered to the extent commensurate with the potential for impacts. Determinations of significance have been made based on those defined in the Mendocino County standard Initial Study Checklist.

### 1.3 HISTORY AND BACKGROUND

Ukiah is the county seat and largest city of Mendocino County, California. Ukiah is located in the Ukiah Valley with an elevation of 633 ft (193 m) above sea level. According to the United States Census Bureau, the city covers an area of 4.7 square miles (U.S. Census Bureau 2010). Figure 2 illustrates the general location of Mendocino County and Ukiah, California.

FIGURE 2 GENERAL LOCATION



The current MCJ, located in Ukiah California, is a Type II facility as described in California Code of Regulations, Title 15. It is used for the detention of persons pending arraignment, during trial, and upon sentence to a commitment.

The MCJ is currently comprised of two buildings. One MCJ building 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 the MCJ capacity to 154. In 1991, a second building was constructed to eliminate other, older housing units increasing the MCJ's rated capacity to 295. Since 1991, an additional six isolation beds bring the currently capacity to 301 beds.

## 1.4 DETERMINATION OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACTS

This IS/ND has been prepared pursuant to Section 15070 through Section 15075 of the CEQA Guidelines as prescribed in Section 1.2 above. As indicated in Chapter 3.0 of this document, no significant impacts would occur as a result of project implementation with the incorporation of appropriate mitigation measures and conditions of approval that will be incorporated into the project design. The Mendocino County Sheriff's Office, and if necessary, other responsible agencies identified in the IS/ND will consider the information contained in this document prior to making a final decision on the proposed expansion of the Mendocino County Jail.

## 1.5 NEED FOR THE PROPOSED PROJECT

### 1.5.1 LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

Motivated by a federal court ruling, California shifted significant responsibilities from its overcrowded and expensive state prison system to the counties. This reform—known as Realignment—eliminated the practice of returning technical parole violators to state prison, designated a series of lower-level offenses that are now punishable by jail sentences rather than prison sentences, and greatly increased incentives for local criminal justice systems to use alternatives to incarceration.

With new responsibilities and a significant increase in the average daily jail population (ADP), California's already crowded county jails face new pressures and challenges. Moreover, many county facilities were built several decades ago and were not designed for long-term detention.

In 2011, Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. signed Assembly Bill (AB) 109 and AB 117, historic legislation, to enable California to close the revolving door of low-level inmates cycling in and out of state prisons. It is the cornerstone of California's solution to the U.S. Supreme Court order to reduce the number of inmates in the state's 33 prisons to 137.5 percent of original design capacity.

All provisions of AB 109 and AB 117 were prospective and implementation of the 2011 Realignment Legislation began October 1, 2011. No inmates currently in state prison were or are transferred to county jails or released early. Prior to Realignment, more than 60,000 felon parole violators returned to state prison annually, with an average length of stay of 90 days. On September 30, 2011, the felon parole violator population was 13,285; by the end of November

2013, that population was down to 25 because most felon parole violators now serve revocation time in county jail. Under Realignment, newly convicted, low-level offenders without current or prior serious or violent offenses stay in county jail to serve their sentence; this has reduced the annual admissions to less than 36,000 a year.

Prior to Realignment, there were approximately 55,000 to 65,000 new admissions from county courts to state prison. Overall, the diversion of low-level offenders and parole violators to county jail instead of state prison since October 2011 has resulted in a population decrease of about 25,000. <http://www.cdcr.ca.gov/realignment/docs/realignment-fact-sheet.pdf> Accessed June 26.

### 1.5.2 MCJ INMATE POPULATION

To provide context to the MCJ inmate population, the data presented in Table 1 were retrieved from the Board of State and Community Corrections – Jail Profile Survey and the Mendocino County Sheriff’s Office data collection process. Often, the overriding concern is considered to be populations in physical custody; however, the number of offenders being managed in addition to those physically incarcerated presents a full picture of the Mendocino County criminal offender population. As illustrated in Table 1, the use of alternatives to incarceration has had a tremendous impact on keeping the physical custody population below the rated capacity of 295 beds. Without these programs, crowding would be untenable.

**Table 1 MCJ Inmate Populations**

Year	Work Release	Home Detention	Physical Custody	Total
2002	82	0	253	335
2003	72	0	227	299
2004	70	0	266	336
2005	46	6	274	326
2006	63	8	263	334
2007	56	6	271	333
2008	73	6	291	370
2009	73	7	284	364
2010	52	6	256	314
2011	62	4	210	276
2012	54	2	255	311
2013	51	5	276	332
<b>Avg. Total</b>	66	6	272	342

### INMATE STATISTICS

During the period of 2002 to 2012, there was a 5.9 percent increase in the number of bookings. In comparison to statewide data, MCJ’s policy on citing and collaborative efforts with criminal justice partners has resulted in a lower percentage of pre-trial detainees. This will likely only improve with the advent of MCJ’s Pre-Trial Release Service program on January 2, 2014. MCJ will be using the Ohio Pre-Trial Release instrument to assess offender needs and risk with the goal of reducing the pre-trial population to a range of 50 to 55 percent of the MCJ ADP.

MCJ has experienced an increase in inmates charged with a felony. The number of felony inmates has increased from 70 percent to 89 from 2002 to 2011 with a slight decrease to 87 percent for the year 2012.

Since the implementation of AB 109, MCJ has had 101 offenders sentenced and remanded to the jail. Of those, 41 had a commitment of 3 years or more and the longest commitment is 11 years. It also represents a 177 percent increase in length of stays from 2002 to 2012 and a 133 percent increase since the implementation of AB 109. Average Length of Stay was calculated based on the instructions in the *Jail Profile Survey Workbook 2012* (California Board of State and Community Corrections 2012). Using these data, the MCJ inmate population has an 80 percent higher length of stay rate than the State of California average.

Despite efforts by the county and law enforcement organizations to “cite and release” in the field whenever appropriate, as well as the use of several innovative Therapeutic Courts, the underlying trend of more serious crimes being committed in the county has generated the need for additional detention capacity. The County of Mendocino’s justice team, including the Mendocino County Sheriff’s Office, District Attorney, Public Defender, Courts, and Probation, hold monthly meetings to ensure a fair, safe, and efficient justice system. The partners are aware of the scarcity of resources the jail can provide and help keep the inmate population down as much as possible.

The Proposed Project would provide Mendocino County with a facility that has sufficient capacity for existing and future needs, and would substantially improve the living conditions and operation difficulties experienced at MCJ.

### 1.5.3 MCJ NEEDS ASSESSMENT

In September 2013, the Mendocino County Sheriff’s Office performed a comprehensive Needs Assessment as an update to the previous assessment completed in 2006. This current Needs Assessment includes both current and historical data on the MCJ, its inmates, and yearly operations. It details the facility’s purpose and objectives, as well as size, occupancy statistics, design, age, and obstacles to meeting the stated purpose and objectives of the facility’s operations and the ever-changing demands on the correctional facility.

The needs assessment identified 11 findings and corresponding solutions. The subsections below group the 11 findings into two categories, Facility Maintenance Obstacles and Facility Planning Obstacles, and describe the identified challenges.

#### FACILITY MAINTENANCE OBSTACLES

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The two MCJ buildings are maintenance intensive; particularly Building 1 built in 1985, where the housing units were constructed entirely with steel. Steel requires routine maintenance and painting. Deferred maintenance from lack of funds has compromised the steel resulting in holes in walls from rust. Walls and ceilings leak during the winter months. The two buildings have substandard copper piping with no ground wire installed, which has resulted in electrolysis. Electrolysis has resulted in water leaks requiring replacement of a significant amount of piping. Roofs of both buildings have experienced chronic leaks, which require extensive roof repair and

maintenance. The facility has experienced chronic heating and air conditioning problems, plumbing leaks, and circulatory problems from aging infrastructure.

The increase in inmate occupancy, variations in security level of inmates, and reconfiguration of cells have produced design and layout issues, which have become ineffective from a safety standpoint. Impeded line-of-sight has created blind spots making inmate supervision difficult for officers. Assaults in both the linear and podular buildings have increased as a result. This is a clear officer and inmate safety concern.

#### FACILITY PLANNING OBSTACLES

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The 2013 Needs Assessment identified several obstacles to efficient and effective MCJ operations. Planning obstacles include facility configuration, inmate housing, program opportunities, visitors' access, and safety. The subsections below offer brief descriptions of the deficiencies identified during the Needs Assessment.

#### FACILITY CONFIGURATION AND TITLE 24 REQUIREMENTS

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The California Corrections Standards Authority's Title 24 outlines the minimum standards for local detention facilities. They describe design criteria for required spaces, furnishings, and equipment for housing inmates. Past facility planning for the MCJ provided inefficient and ineffective housing unit types. The correct types and numbers of inmate housing units were not built to meet the needs of the Mendocino County inmate population. Currently, the MCJ is forced to use the "pigeon-hole" method of placing inmates. In other words, inmates are placed wherever there is an empty cell. This includes both the mentally ill and maximum-security inmates.

There is a lack of centralization of maximum-security single cells. Currently, there are 41 cells spread through nine housing units. Because the cells do not match up with the actual number of inmates requiring a single cell, it causes the use of double cells in those specific units and then displaces those inmates who have to be housed on temporary bunks. Non-rated temporary beds used to mitigate crowded conditions and avoid inmates sleeping directly on the floor have been commonplace. This on-going practice continues to result in an unsafe environment for staff and inmates and raises a concern about potential litigation arising due to non-compliance with Title 24 Standards.

Since 2002, the MCJ has been determined non-compliant with California Code of Regulations, Title 24 requirements (2010) in various areas. These instances of non-compliance have almost exclusively been the result of overcrowding and the use of temporary beds. In addition, some instances of non-compliance have been the result of aging and maintenance-intensive infrastructure (malfunctioning HVAC, bathroom facilities, and leaking pipes). In order to be compliant with Title 24 requirements, the MCJ's inmate capacity would need to be increased.

#### INMATE CLASSIFICATIONS AND HOUSING

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Between 2005 and 2013 staff assaults increased 42.8 percent and inmate on inmate violence decreased by 23.8 percent. For the year 2012/2013, staff assaults are up 400 percent and

inmate on inmate violence increased 144 percent. The timeline shows a relationship to implementation of AB 109.

In addition, inmates have various personal health and gender restrictions that require consideration when determining a housing plan. Appropriate housing for different classifications of inmates is a critical need not currently being met. The subsections below briefly describe these populations and facility deficiencies.

#### **MENTAL HEALTH**

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Mentally ill inmates on psychotropic medications make up 22 percent of the MCJ population. Currently, these inmates are being housed in various locations throughout the facility, which does not allow mental health staff to treat them in a comprehensive and focused manner. Because of competing programs (showers, visiting, etc.), it is very difficult for staff to ensure all legal requirements are completed.

#### **AGE AND PHYSICAL HEALTH**

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The number of inmates between the ages of 60 to over 70 has increased 314 percent since 2002. These inmates typically have chronic, more serious, and more frequent medical problems, such as dementia and failing organs. In order to provide the appropriate level of care and to meet the requirements for constant medical attention and American Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant beds and single cells, the jail would need to be expanded and reconfigured to not only provide more beds, but the correct types of beds.

#### **SECURITY CLASSIFICATION**

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The inmate population of MCJ is classified in several groups depending upon the level of security required to safely house offenders during their commitment at the MCJ. Inmate classification is a continuous process of assessing inmates in order to house them in the least restrictive security level possible, while maintaining a secure and safe environment for staff, inmates, and the community. MCJ uses positive reinforcement to encourage the inmates to control their behavior and attain the least restrictive security levels.

Because of ADP and inefficient housing configuration, many maximum-security inmates are currently housed in cells that were built for medium security inmates. The locks can be defeated and assaults on other inmates and staff have increased.

#### **FEMALE INMATE HOUSING**

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The female inmate population is consistently near or exceeding capacity, ranging from a low of 77 percent to a high of 113 percent. Ideally, there should be three separate classifications for the female inmate population (i.e. maximum, medium, and minimum security). However, there are currently only two housing units for female inmates. This provides little to no flexibility for properly housing female inmates held for offenses of varying degrees of seriousness and institutional sophistication. Currently, all female inmates regardless of the degree of seriousness, violence of their offenses, or imposed restrictions, are administratively segregated in the same

housing unit. This practice unduly restricts the general population inmates in the same housing unit to more restrictive living arrangements and forces them to be housed on temporary beds to accommodate inmates that are by necessity isolated in two-bed cells. Both of these situations pose a potential liability issue for the MCJ. Adequate maximum-security housing for female inmates would correct this deficiency.

#### MALE INMATE HOUSING

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Wing 4 of MCJ contains several diverse classifications of inmates, including Maximum 3, Maximum 2, Medium Protective Custody, and Disciplinary Lockdown. A major potential problem is the real and present danger of inadvertently allowing inmates with very different security classifications housed in the same unit to have contact with each other. Contact of this nature has resulted in attacks on five occasions.

The practice of housing inmates with these different classifications in the same housing unit exposes the County to potential liability. Centralized maximum-security housing for male inmates would correct this deficiency.

#### PROGRAMS

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The philosophy of the Sheriff's Office is that services and programs have a direct benefit not only to the inmates, but also to the facility environment, correctional staff, and the community. It is their goal to provide as many opportunities for people to learn how to stabilize their personal lives and obtain the basic prerequisites to find employment. Programs are divided into three categories: educational, religious, and developmental.

#### EDUCATION

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The following educational programs are available:

- G.E.D. – The Ukiah Adult School provides teachers and instruction.
- California Food Handler Certification – Inmate Services provides an online course.
- Food Preparation – A local bakery owner provides training on preparing bread and other baked goods.
- Horticultural Program – Education on growing fruits and vegetables, landscaping, and maintenance of gardens.

#### RELIGIOUS

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The jail chaplain provides religious services to all faiths offering an additional tool to manage self-made obstacles and add stability to their lives.

#### DEVELOPMENTAL

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Brief descriptions of programs available to inmates at the MCJ are provided below.

- Men's Grief – tools and corrective actions to process loss and recognize unhealthy behavior, and how unhealthy responses result in substance abuse and criminal lifestyles.
- Women's Anger & Grief – tools and corrective actions to deal with anger, loss, healing, forgiveness, reconciliation, and reorganizing life after loss.
- Prescription for Success – assessment of substance abuse risk and use by a Certified Alcohol Drug Counselor using the American Society of Addiction Medicine assessment tool. This group-setting program uses cognitive therapy to elicit lifestyle changes through behavioral techniques, and includes re-entry assistance. It has a 60-day mandatory minimum length of stay.
- Clean – faith-based substance abuse education using group discussion and workbooks.
- Video Programming – videos and coordinating workbooks on anger management, substance abuse, and employment counseling to obtain/retain employment with a criminal background (available to inmates with access to a housing unit TV). The program is monitored by a Certified Substance Abuse Counselor.
- Anger Management and Men's Alternatives to Violence – counseling and credit towards Court-ordered anger management requirements once per week.
- White Bison-Red Road to Wellbriety – substance abuse program for Native American inmates that draws on the healing philosophies of Native American culture along with the practices of Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) and Narcotics Anonymous (NA).
- Life Skills – a program for addiction, substance abuse, and recovery; success outside of jail; prevention of relapse; criminal thinking; personal change; and anger management.
- AA and NA – weekly Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous meetings.
- Story Book – inmates select and read a book to their children that is recorded and burned to a CD. The book and CD are sent to the child (with custodial guardian approval).

#### OBSTACLES IN PROVIDING PROGRAMS

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Restrictions exist in providing programs to inmates. The MCI's current program space is located in an older part of the facility in a minimally secured unattached building referred to as the Inmate Service Building. Minimum-security inmates, regardless of judicial status, can be taken to the Inmate Service Building. This gives them significantly more access to programming.

The classification of maximum security inmates requires that they be moved individually or in very small groups and requires an escort by staff. This is staff intensive and poses a safety and security risk. Locating the program space in the housing units would allow more inmates to participate in programs and eliminate the need for inmates to be escorted through the facility. This would result in a savings of staff time and a safer facility. The current design and layout of the housing units do not allow for dedicated program space in the housing units. Movement of

inmates for programs and other daily activities requires an inordinate amount of staff time and coordination. When staffing levels fall below fixed staffing requirements, programs are cancelled.

MCJ facilities designated for female inmates are chronically overcrowded. The area housing females was inadequately sized when constructed and lacks a sufficient number of maximum-security cells. Maximum security female inmates are not properly segregated in female inmate housing and moving them to program space areas presents the same security challenges.

Attorney client visits are extremely difficult because of a lack of visiting space for confidential visits. On occasion, the attorney leaves without seeing their client. The local BAR and Public Defender has complained about the current conditions.

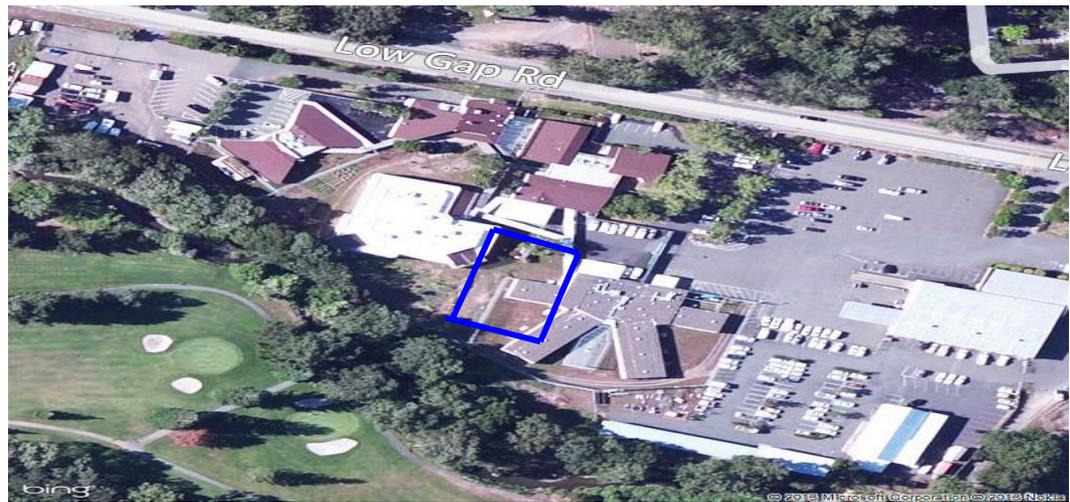
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## 2.0 DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT

The Proposed Project would be to construct an expansion of the MCJ that addresses the documented need for increased inmate capacity, thoughtfully designed housing and program space to accommodate the varying security classifications of inmates, and to replace aging facility infrastructure that requires intensive maintenance and repair. Construction of the Proposed Project would correct the deficiencies identified in the September 2013 Needs Assessment (Mendocino County Sheriff's Office 2013).

The MCJ currently operates from a 35.7-acre complex located on Low Gap Road in Ukiah, California. The location of the proposed new housing unit and visitor center would be on the existing Mendocino County Sheriff's Office site between current inmate Housing Units 1 and 2 (Figure 3). All construction activities would occur within the boundaries of Sheriff's Office land in previously disturbed areas where the land would be repurposed as new housing and a visitor center. Photographs of the Proposed Project site are included as Appendix A.

**FIGURE 3 AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH OF PROPOSED PROJECT LOCATION**



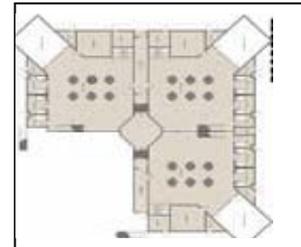
The Proposed Project consists of the construction of a new stand-alone, Type II Detention Facility at the MCJ. Occupancy would consist of 45 Double Occupancy Cells in 3 pods (15 cells per pod) for a total of 90 beds. Two cells in each pod would be double occupancy and ADA compliant. The building would consist of 14,000 square feet divided into three individual pods with a central supervisory platform, using pre-cast concrete cell modules, steel infill, and roofing with externally accessible utility corridors. The AHU's (Air Handler Units) would be located on the ground adjacent to the Jail building. A state-of-the-art, vacuum supported waste evisceration system would be used to reduce inmate ability to sabotage or intentionally vandalize the plumbing waste system with bed sheets, jumpsuits, or other foreign material.

The pre-cast concrete cell modules would support efficient food pass through with minimal contact, vandal proof plumbing fixtures, and vandal proof light fixtures. The cell module approach would deaden sound transfer that reduces the inmate's ability to communicate secretly with other inmates.

The steel infill and metal roofing would support future potential solar panel installation. Natural lighting would be conveyed using a Solatube Skylight design that transfers natural light and is non-conductive to a security breach.

The 'pre-cast' cell module with steel infill and externally placed utilities would present the greatest return on investment from the constructability, maintenance, and facility life expectancy perspectives. Locating the new building adjacent to existing structures and the coordinated layout of the Visitors Center would provide additional ease of inmate movement. The designated medical exam/procedure room would reduce the transport of inmates to the Medical Unit. Lastly, internalizing exercise yards and program areas would result in greatly decreased inmate movement, thus maximizing security and lessening the demands of staff.

The Mendocino County design approach incorporated the concept of a central direct visual supervision station with a 360-degree population visibility platform common to all pods. This would result in the ability of minimal staff to view the inmate population, discourage violence and vandalism, and maintain a supervisory presence (see inset).



A new visitor's center would be located adjacent to the new jail. The visitor's center would provide enhanced attorney/inmate interaction capability with close proximity to housing. This would aid in reducing the amount of staff time necessary to escort the inmates for visitation. To provide enough space to build this new unit, 20 older beds in the existing portion of the facility would be demolished (Mendocino County Sheriff's Office 2013).

The design of the current jail is inadequate and does not provide the correct number and type of beds necessary to house the mentally ill, elderly, female, and maximum-security inmates. It also lacks adequate space for programs such as educational, substance abuse and mental health treatment. The facility only has 41 maximum-security single cells and has an immediate need of 58 such beds on a daily basis. Many inmates must sleep on temporary beds in the dayrooms as they are displaced from cells by maximum-security, protective custody, and mentally ill inmates. The county has been found non-compliant in past (2002 to present) Board of State and Community Corrections bi-annual inspections because of the use of temporary beds and chronic facility maintenance issues due to age.

The new construction would address many of the issues identified in the Needs Assessment conducted by the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office. Among them are:

- Lack of adequate maximum-security, mental health, aged and female beds
- Lack of programming space
- Use of temporary beds ("floor sleepers")
- Reduced security and safety for inmates, staff and the public
- Lack of adequate confidential and non-confidential visiting space
- Lack of centralization of maximum-security cells

Construction of the new housing unit would result in the centralization of maximum security, elderly, and protective custody inmates. This centralization would enable the most serious, violent and disruptive inmates to be centrally located in the facility for health services, mental

health services and programming. This would eliminate the need for temporary beds, as the maximum-security inmates would be housed in a pod designed for that purpose. Medium security housing pods currently used for maximum-security inmates would then be available to house inmates currently sleeping in temporary beds on the floor. The result would be a safer, more secure facility in compliance with regulations.

Mentally ill inmates who are currently housed wherever there is an available bed would be housed in a pod designed specifically for this classification. These inmates would no longer be housed in units with mixed classifications. Female inmates housing would be expanded to accommodate the increase in female inmates and allow security classifications to be segregated. The result would be a safer, more secure facility in compliance with regulations.

The new housing unit would include a classroom, three (3) recreation yards and a medical exam and procedure room. This would allow for more and centralized programming and services to the most underserved populations of MCJ, including the maximum-security, mentally ill, female, aged, and infirmed inmates. Inmates housed in the new housing unit would have access to inmate programs, such as alcohol and drug counseling, mental health counseling, education instruction, and life-skills counseling available to them "on the unit".

Mentally ill inmates would be housed in a "therapeutic" housing unit, which would allow Mendocino County to provide jail-based restoration of competency similar to the "Liberty Restoration to Competency" program. Mentally ill inmates would have direct access to their recreation yard from their housing pod. With a medical exam and procedure room in the unit, inmates would have access to treatment in a safer and more secure environment. Because these inmates would no longer leave the unit and transition through the facility's hallways, the likelihood of exposure to high-risk prisoners, attacks, and danger would be decreased.

The addition of a Visitor Center would create adequate space for confidential and non-confidential inmate visits. The Visitor Center would also provide a safer and more secure visiting environment for sophisticated, violent, disruptive, and vulnerable inmates. Each classification of inmate would have adequate time and space for face-to-face visits with confidential visitors and video and face-to-face visits with family and friends. Visiting for inmates, particularly mentally ill inmates, is crucial as it helps allows them to forge and maintain bonds with family and friends that assist in their stabilization. Having an appropriate number of safe, secure, and confidential visiting rooms would also assist inmates in their legal defense and appeals, and would aid in lowering the tension of inmates facing criminal charges and jail or prison time upon sentencing.

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## **CONSTRUCTION**

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All construction activities would adhere with generally accepted standards and protocols to ensure that all applicable environmental laws and regulations are adhered to during construction, including onsite measures to control stormwater, dust, and disposal of construction debris. Construction activities would be temporary and the site would return to normal land use conditions post-construction. The expanded MCJ would continue to operate under the same conditions that the current MCJ does within the same designated complex.

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## 3.0 ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED AND DETERMINATION

### 3.1 ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED

The following environmental factors were identified as being potentially affected by implementation of the Proposed Project, expansion of the MCJ. These factors are described and analyzed in Chapter 4.0, Environmental Analysis. Environmental impacts identified were determined to be negligible, temporary, or incremental; therefore, no potentially significant impacts were identified.

- Physiography
- Wetlands and Floodplains
- Biological Resources
- Protected Species
- Cultural Resources
- Farmland Protection
- Demographics and Environmental Justice
- Land Use and Recreation
- Education
- Community Services
- Water Supply
- Wastewater Disposal
- Energy Supply
- Solid Waste
- Hazardous Materials
- Transportation
- Air Quality and Climate Change (Greenhouse Gases)
- Noise and Light Pollution
- Mandatory Findings of Significance

The environmental analysis in Chapter 4.0 is patterned after the Initial Study Checklist recommended by the *CEQA Guidelines*, as amended, and used by the County of Mendocino in its environmental review process. For the preliminary environmental assessment undertaken as part of this Initial Study's preparation, a determination that there is a potential for significant effects indicates the need to more fully analyze the development's impacts and to identify mitigation.

For the evaluation of potential impacts, the questions in the Initial Study Checklist are stated and an answer is provided according to the analysis undertaken as part of the Initial Study. The analysis considers the long-term, direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts of the development. To each question, there are four possible responses:

- **No Impact.** The development will not have any measurable environmental impact on the environment.
- **Less Than Significant Impact.** The development will have the potential for affecting the environment, although this impact will be below established thresholds that are considered to be significant.
- **Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated.** The development will have the potential to generate impacts, which may be considered a significant effect on the environment, although mitigation measures or changes to the development's physical or

operational characteristics can reduce these impacts to levels that are less than significant.

- **Potentially Significant Impact.** The development could have impacts, which may be considered significant, and therefore, additional analysis is required to identify mitigation measures that could reduce potentially significant impacts to less than significant levels.

Where potential impacts are anticipated to be significant, mitigation measures will be required, such that impacts may be avoided or reduced to insignificant levels.

### 3.2 ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

✓	I find that the proposal use <b>COULD NOT</b> have a significant effect on the environment, and a <b>NEGATIVE DECLARATION</b> was prepared.
	I find that although the proposal could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. A <b>MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION</b> will be prepared.
	I find that the proposal <b>MAY</b> have a significant effect on the environment, and an <b>ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT</b> is required.
	I find that the proposal <b>MAY</b> have a significant effect(s) on the environment, but at least one effect 1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and 2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets, if the effect is a “potentially significant impact” or “potentially significant unless mitigated.” An <b>ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT</b> is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.
	I find that although the proposal could have a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effect (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier EIR or <b>NEGATIVE DECLARATION</b> , pursuant to all applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR or <b>NEGATIVE DECLARATION</b> , including revisions or mitigation measures are imposed upon the proposed project, nothing further is required.

*Prepared on behalf of Mendocino County Sheriff’s Office by:*



Rebecca Oldham, Project Manager/Senior Environmental Planner  
 Potomac-Hudson Engineering, Inc.  
 November 11, 2014

The draft Initial Study and proposed Negative Declaration were submitted to the State of California Governor’s Office of Planning and Research State Clearinghouse and Planning Unit. The review period closed on September 10, 2014, and no state agencies submitted comments by that date. A letter acknowledging that the County of Mendocino Sheriff’s Office has complied with the State Clearinghouse review requirements for draft environmental documents, pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act is included in Appendix C.

## 4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

This chapter describes the potential impacts of proposed Mendocino County Jail Expansion project on the existing environmental resources of the project area. For each respective environmental resource, sufficient information is first provided to describe the baseline conditions that may be affected by the Proposed Project. Appendix C includes correspondence from the Governor's Office of Planning and Research State Clearinghouse documenting the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office's compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act and acceptance of this prepared initial study/negative declaration.

### 4.1 PHYSIOGRAPHY

Ukiah is located in the southern portion of Mendocino County, an intermontane valley within the northern Coast Range of California. The valley is filled with stream and lake deposits on flood plains, alluvial fans, and terraces (USDA, 1984). In Ukiah, these deposits have an average thickness of several thousand feet. The basic source of all water in Mendocino County is precipitation in the form of rain or snow. Average annual rainfall in Mendocino County ranges from slightly less than 35 inches in the Ukiah area to more than 80 inches near Branscomb. Most of the precipitation falls during the winter, and substantial snowfall is limited to higher elevations. Rainfall is often from storms that move in from the northwest. Virtually no rainfall occurs during the summer months (Mendocino County 2009). The county receives approximately 36.96 inches of annual rainfall (<http://www.ukiah.com/index.html> accessed June 29, 2014) and has an average low temperature of 45.6°F and average high temperature of 72.4°F (<http://www.usclimatedata.com/climate/ukiah/california/united-states/usca1176>).

Soils at the Proposed Project site have been classified as urban land and consist mainly of fill material. Talmage soils and Xerofluvents have been known to be present in very small amounts near creek beds in the surrounding area. Permeability and drainage of the soil are variable due to the developed nature of the classified area (USDA, 2002). However, erosion is relatively easy to control with proper site management. The terrain at the facility slopes gently downward toward Orrs Creek. There is a notable drop off of elevation that begins at the outer boundary of the vegetated buffer and continues down to the creek bed.

Mendocino County is in an active earthquake area. Five known faults or fault zones traverse Mendocino County and are considered potentially active or active. One offshore fault zone, the Cascadia Subduction Zone is located about 30 miles northwest and offshore.

The San Andreas Fault traverses the southwest corner of the county and continues offshore north of Manchester. It is capable of generating very strong earthquakes. The last major earthquake on this portion of the San Andreas Fault was the 1906 San Francisco earthquake, which was estimated at a magnitude (M) of 7.9. Since the 1906 earthquake, very little seismic activity has been recorded on the San Andreas Fault from San Francisco north.

Associated with the San Andreas Fault is the Whale Gulch Fault, which extends into the northwestern most corner of Mendocino County. In Mendocino County, the Whale Gulch Fault is located a few miles west of the offshore San Andreas Fault and is considered to be potentially active.

The City of Ukiah is located within the Maacama Fault Zone. The Maacama Fault extends from northern Sonoma County to north of Laytonville in Mendocino County. Historically, the Maacama Fault has generated only a few moderate earthquakes. However, an abundance of micro-earthquakes (less than magnitude 3) are clearly associated with the fault. A magnitude 5.6 earthquake was reported to have occurred in the Ukiah area in 1869. Additionally, several earthquakes in the magnitude range of 4, with the strongest at M 4.9, were recorded in the Ukiah area in 1977-78. Surface fault creep (very slow movements across known fault locations) has been documented along the Maacama fault at locations east of Willits and Ukiah.

The Round Valley Fault traverses the northeastern corner of Mendocino County. The Round Valley Fault has not been found to exhibit activity more recently than 1.6 million years ago. A few micro-earthquakes have been recorded in the vicinity of the fault, particularly at the southern end and it is considered potentially active.

Located in the remote northeastern corner of Mendocino County, the Etsel Ridge Fault is the easternmost potentially active fault in Mendocino County. This fault has been the subject of very little study, but is believed to have experienced movement approximately 1.6 million years ago. Micro-earthquakes in the vicinity are scattered and limited. The Etsel Ridge Fault has been classified as potentially active.

The Cascadia Subduction Zone located about 30 miles northwest of Mendocino County and offshore is an area where several tectonic plates converge and is considered capable of generating greater earthquakes than any other seismic source in the western United States. The most recent major earthquake associated with the Cascadia Subduction Zone occurred on January 26, 1700, and was estimated to have been M 9.0. In recent years, movement along the Cascadia Subduction Zone's margins in Northern California have generated magnitude 6.0-7.2 earthquakes, including a M 7.2 earthquake on April 25, 1992, and a M 6.4 earthquake on June 17, 2005 (Mendocino County 2009).

#### **PROPOSED PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION**

Construction for the Proposed Project would involve minimal excavation and grading of the proposed site. The project area is relatively flat, reducing the need for fill and other impacts on physiographic features. Soil erosion could increase slightly during construction, but would be minimized by implementing standard soil erosion and sediment control best management practices. Since all of Mendocino County is in a seismic hazard Zone 4, the Proposed Project does not expose anyone or any structures to increased risk of fault rupture, ground shaking, ground failure, landslides, or other seismic-related hazards, nor to any risk of land subsidence. The design of the Proposed Project would adhere to all building codes applicable to seismic safety in order to minimize the damage accrued in the event of an earthquake. Therefore, the Proposed Project would have no significant impact on physiography.

## 4.2 WATER RESOURCES

Numerous creeks feed the Russian River in the center of the Ukiah valley. One of these creeks, Orrs, flows directly south of the Proposed Project site. Orrs Creek originates in the Pine Ridge approximately 4 miles west of MCJ and the lower section flows through the Ukiah Valley and through the City of Ukiah. Orrs Creek and its tributaries drain a basin of approximately 9.42 square miles. The predominant vegetation in the lower section of the watershed is alders, oaks, and berries (California Department of Fish and Game 2006). As Orrs Creek passes through the City, it no longer supports the diversity of wildlife and native fish populations that it once did (City of Ukiah 2010a). The Ukiah General Plan specifies that creeks and streams must be preserved. Construction near a creek bed must maintain a 25-foot riparian zone or not be within 50 feet of the creek bank. The stream bank is just over 50 feet from the site of the Proposed Project and there are no existing erosion impacts to the stream bank from current MCJ land use operations.

### PROPOSED PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

Construction of the Proposed Project would increase the area of impervious surfaces by less than 1 acre. The resulting minor increase in storm water runoff generated at the site would be discharged via sheet flow under the facility fence and toward the stream bank or directed to a culvert. The permanent security fencing currently in place at the perimeter of the MCJ would remain in place during construction further separating construction activities from the stream bank. It is not expected that construction activities would generate significant runoff. The slight increase in storm water runoff after construction of the Proposed Project would not measurably degrade the quality of water infiltrating the subsurface or discharging into Orrs Creek.

New construction would not violate the Ukiah general plan or inhibit any rehabilitation or enhancement of Orrs Creek. The Proposed Project would be just outside the 50-foot barrier required by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and would not extend beyond the 25-foot riparian zone along Orrs Creek with the exception of trimming overgrown vegetation adjacent to the existing fence line. Therefore, impacts due to a minor increase in storm water flow would be insignificant.

## 4.3 WETLANDS AND FLOODPLAINS

The Proposed Project site is situated on fill material in an urban area. The site does not support wetland flora or fauna. There are no recorded wetlands on the site according to the National Wetlands Inventory Maps (USFWS 2002). In addition, the site has been determined to be outside the 100-year floodplain as mapped by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA 2003) (Mendocino County Offices of Emergency Services 2014).

### PROPOSED PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

The Proposed Project site is located within the boundaries of the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office MCJ campus on previously disturbed land that would be repurposed for construction. The site is not located within a 100-year floodplain and would not affect wetland areas.

#### 4.4 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

There are no natural species occurring in the Proposed Project site because this area currently contains an exercise yard or otherwise landscaped and maintained areas. Vegetation surrounding the exercise yard, and the land designated for expansion of the fence line, includes grasses and some noxious weeds but no shrubs or trees.

Fauna and other wildlife found in the area surrounding the Proposed Project site are concentrated in the Orrs creek vegetation buffer and consist primarily of deer, small mammals, and birds.

##### PROPOSED PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

All construction activities would occur within existing fence line boundaries on filled area and the vegetated area adjacent to Orrs Creek would not be altered or disturbed with exception of trimming of some overgrown vines. Since the Proposed Project area has minimal wildlife use and value, the Proposed Project would result in a less-than-significant impact on the local biological resources.

#### 4.5 PROTECTED SPECIES

There are 325 listed animal and plant species in California (USFWS, 2002). The Endangered Species Act (Public Law-205) requires the protection and conservation of federally listed threatened or endangered plants and animals and their habitats. However, the Proposed Project area is located in a previously disturbed area within the existing boundaries of the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office campus where no protected species are known to occur and habitat is not suitable to support protected species.

##### PROPOSED PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

The Proposed Project site primarily consists of maintained areas with little or no natural habitat that would support protected species. There are no known, or indication of, protected species present at the site. Therefore, the Proposed Project is not expected to affect species protected by the state or Federal governments.

#### 4.6 CULTURAL RESOURCES

The State of California Office of Historic Preservation currently has seven properties listed in Mendocino County with two located in Ukiah, the Sun House and Ukiah Vichy Springs Resort (California Office of Historic Preservation 2014, [http://ohp.parks.ca.gov/?page\\_id=21431](http://ohp.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=21431), Accessed July 2, 2014). In 2002, a discussion with concerned Native American parties concluded that there are no known or anticipated surface or subsurface artifacts of archaeological or cultural significance that would be affected by the project. According to the National Historic Register, there are four properties in Mendocino County listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP, 2002). None is located on or adjacent to the Proposed Project location. The current land use of the Proposed Project area is an exercise yard. The area is graded, mostly denuded of vegetation, or sparsely vegetated with non-native grass and other plants that support the

inmates' horticultural program. The surface is disturbed and has been in use since initial construction of the MCJ in 1985.

#### PROPOSED PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

The Proposed Project site is a previously disturbed area that does not contain any buildings over 50 years old. Accordingly, correspondence with SHPO in 2002 concluded that there were no cultural resources located on or near the Proposed Project site. Activity and use of the Project site has remained constant since its initial construction in 1985; therefore, construction of the Proposed Project would not affect cultural resources.

## 4.7 AGRICULTURE AND FARMLAND PROTECTION

The California Department of Conservation's (DOC) Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program (FMMP) designates land that is considered prime farmland. Prime Farmland is also protected by the California state government under the Williamson Land Act, which offers tax breaks in return for a 10-year commitment to the property being used for farmland. Approximately 28.4 percent of the total land area in Mendocino County is designated as Farm Land (USDA, 2002). None of the soils on or surrounding the Proposed Project site has been designated prime farmland.

#### PROPOSED PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

As there are no active agricultural uses on or adjacent to the proposed site, construction of the Proposed Project would not remove any acreage in Mendocino County from agricultural production. Therefore, no impact would occur on prime farmland in the county.

## 4.8 DEMOGRAPHICS AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

### 4.8.1 DEMOGRAPHICS

The Proposed Project site is located within the city limits of Ukiah, in Mendocino County, California (Figure 1). In 2010, Mendocino County had a population of 87,841, approximately 16,075 of whom reside in Ukiah. The races making up the largest parts of the population are White [72.1 percent], Hispanic [27.7 percent] and two or more races [5.5 percent]. The city's residents are 48.1 percent males and 51.9 percent women. (US Census Bureau 2010, <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/06/06045.html>, Accessed June 26, 2014).

The poverty rate for Ukiah, CA is 13.5 percent. The Ukiah, CA unemployment rate was 10.5 percent, as of the last census. This is higher than the national average of 7.9 percent. In Ukiah, CA, the median worker income is \$21,507 in 2012 dollars. This is lower than the national average of \$29,551 (<http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/06/0681134.html> Accessed June 28, 2014). In 2010, there were approximately 6,136 housing units in Ukiah and the occupancy rate was 94.5 percent. Renters lived in 55.1 percent of the occupied units and owners filled the other 44.9 percent of the occupied units (US Census 2010).

#### 4.8.2 ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Except for the limited circumstances outlined in the CEQA Guidelines (14 CCR 15131), CEQA does not require a discussion of socioeconomic impacts. CEQA addresses only environmental impacts, not social or economic impacts, so social or economical impacts are only relevant to the extent they cause an environmental impact.

The State of California, Office of Attorney General published a fact sheet in July 2012 entitled, *Environmental Justice at the Local and Regional Level Legal Background* outlining its interpretation of CEQA's relevance to environmental justice and directing local governments and agencies to consider the potential impacts of implementing projects. The Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR) in its General Plan Guidelines recommends that local governments' planning efforts squarely address environmental justice. Local governments can integrate environmental justice into the mandatory elements of the general plan or include an optional environmental justice element (State of California, Office of Attorney General, <http://oag.ca.gov/environment/ceqa/planning>, Accessed June 25, 2014).

Because CEQA requires that environmental impacts must be considered in context, cities and counties should pay special attention to whether a project might cause additional impacts to communities that already are affected by, or particularly vulnerable to, environmental impacts like air and water pollution.

The MCJ is located in an urban area approximately in the northwest corner of the City of Ukiah. Minorities represent 27.9 percent of the population of the City of Ukiah (US Census, <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/06/0681134.html>, 2010, Accessed June 30, 2014). All Proposed Project activities would occur on the existing property currently owned by the county.

#### PROPOSED PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

The proposed project would result in the hiring of approximately five additional full-time personnel. The facility currently has a staff of 47 correctional deputies and 7 sergeants, drawing from a 60-mile radius. This increase would have a minor long-term beneficial impact on the employment rate for the region. There may also be a small short-term increase in local employment and economic activity during construction.

The impact of the Proposed Project on nearby residences would be minimal due to the rural characteristics of the area and buffering woodlands. The Proposed Project area is not disproportionately populated by low income or minority populations. Therefore, the Proposed Project is not expected to have a disproportionately adverse impact on minorities or low-income populations within the Mendocino County Community.

#### 4.9 LAND USE AND RECREATION

The Proposed Project site is situated on the county owned property located on Low Gap Road in the northwest corner of the City of Ukiah. A golf course is located south of the site on the other side of Orrs Creek. County buildings are on the property to the east and west of the site. A cemetery is located directly north of the site across Low Gap Road and Ukiah High School is

located to the north and west of the site. Residential properties are located on the hillside west of the Proposed Project site. There have been no complaints from neighboring businesses or residents regarding the MCJ.

Parks and recreation services fall under the City's Community Services Department. The park system includes 53 acres of neighborhood and community parks. In addition, the 80-acre Low Gap Park, which is in the county system, is located partially within the city limits, offering residents additional recreation opportunities.

Low Gap Park is located in the west hills of Ukiah, just across Low Gap Road from Ukiah High School. This 80-acre park is situated along Orrs Creek, one of the three major streams in Ukiah and an important tributary of the Russian River. The County of Mendocino has also developed a 1+ acre area of land at Low Gap Park as an off-leash dog park. Despite the extensive recreational development, the park's primary attraction is its location along Orrs Creek. Orrs Creek is an important tributary of the Russian River, and is one of the three major streams that runs through the City of Ukiah. Because public access to any of these streams is severely limited, the access to Orrs Creek is one of the principal public benefits of the park. The upper reaches of the park serve as a woodland preserve (Mendocino County General Services Department 2014).

#### **PROPOSED PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION**

Construction of the addition would not conflict with the surrounding land use or recreation opportunities. The new housing and visitor center would be built on an existing recreational yard within the boundaries of the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office boundaries. As the Proposed Project is consistent with existing land use at the facility, and there are no incompatible surrounding land uses, no impacts are expected to occur from the implementation of the Proposed Project. Recreation activities associated with Low Gap Park would continue as planned.

## 4.10 EDUCATION

The Ukiah Unified School District covers an area of approximately 495 square miles in Mendocino County. The school district is composed of six elementary schools, two middle schools, two high schools, one adult school, and one preschool (Ukiah Unified School district, [http://www.uusd.net/pages/Ukiah\\_Unified/Our\\_District/About\\_UUSD](http://www.uusd.net/pages/Ukiah_Unified/Our_District/About_UUSD), Accessed June 24, 2014). The total enrollment for the 2011-2012 school year was 5,602 with a student/teacher ratio of 18.6. There are also seven private schools located in the Ukiah Unified School District. In addition, Mendocino County operates a Community College in downtown Ukiah.

#### **PROPOSED PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION**

The Proposed Project would have no impact on public school enrollment because the expansion would not cause a significant influx of new residents.

## 4.11 COMMUNITY SERVICES

Public safety, fire, emergency, and medical services at the MCJ are provided by the City of Ukiah. The Ukiah Fire Department answers approximately 2,400 calls a year for the City of Ukiah. These

calls include primarily emergency medical service, but also fire, hazardous materials, utility control, rescue service, mutual and automatic aid to other agencies, storm-related situation, and a wide variety of other requests. There are 20 full-time career staff, including a fire chief, two battalion chiefs, four fire captains, and 12 shift personnel, the Department Administrative Secretary, and the Public Safety Fleet Manager. Of the full-time career staff, 14 individuals are state-certified paramedics, four are certified EMTB's, three are state-certified hazardous materials specialists, one is a state-certified fire investigator, and several are certified in the various aspects of Urban Search and Rescue.

The Department has an on-going training program, which covers every aspect of the fire service. All individuals are required to attend and receive training in mandatory programs such as CPR, emergency medical certification, hazardous materials response, self-contained breathing apparatus, and infection disease control to mention just a few.

The Department receives most of its funding from the city and has a Class 3 insurance rating (City of Ukiah, <http://www.cityofukiah.com/who-we-are/>, Accessed June 30, 2014). There is a 4-million-gallon water reservoir available to fight fires, which according to City officials, appears to be an ample water supply. A new 16-inch supply line has been constructed from the water plant to the tanks on the western hillside. Almost the entire City is "gridded" in the water supply piping. Hydrant spacing throughout the City varies but is adequate for fire flow requirements. The minimum target fire flows comply with the 2001 fire code standards. The water supply and availability are sufficient to attain minimum flows (E Mulberg Associates 2012).

The Ukiah Police Department responds to 9-1-1 calls from the MCJ. However, the facility has its own security force, which is responsible for routine safety and security matters. The facility has a good working relationship with the local police force. Medical and dental services for the inmates are provided by Mendocino County.

#### **PROPOSED PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION**

Community services, such as police, fire, emergency, and medical care are currently operating at levels sufficient to meet the needs of the community and the proposed facility. In order to increase access to the facility in case of a fire the perimeter fence is being moved out. With this change, Fire Department personnel should not encounter any access problems if a fire were to occur (Yates, 2002). As sufficient water flow is currently available to accommodate the expansion, the Proposed Project would have no significant impact on fire services. Since the proposed addition would not result in an increase in the demand for police or medical services in the county outside the prison system, the Proposed Project would have no significant impact on these services.

### **4.12 WATER SUPPLY**

Ukiah Public Utilities currently supplies the MCJ with drinking water along with approximately 5,600 connections. Ukiah Public Utilities is a customer-owned utility managed by the City of Ukiah. The City's water supply sources include groundwater, surface water from the underflow of the Russian River, and project water available from the Mendocino County Russian River Flood

Control and Water Conservation Improvement District (City of Ukiah 2010b). In 2010, average daily water usage for the City of Ukiah was 2.6 million gallons per day (MGD).

Water from the river is treated with chemical clarification through coagulation and flocculation, sedimentation, and filtration. The City of Ukiah's primary water source is the underflow from the Russian River, which is classified as Ground Water under Direct Influence for Surface Water (City of Ukiah, <http://www.cityofukiah.com/water-utility/>, Accessed June 30, 2014).

These sources meet the winter demand and supplement the summer demand. During dry periods, when surface and underflows are insufficient the City can purchase up to 800 acre feet of water annually from the Russian River Flood Control District Water Right Permit 12947B ([http://www.uvds.org/Ukiah\\_RWDraftMasterPlan.pdf](http://www.uvds.org/Ukiah_RWDraftMasterPlan.pdf), Accessed June 28, 2014).

Because of the nature of groundwater in the Ukiah Valley, the only requirement that is necessary at our wells is the addition of a disinfectant to maintain safe potable water in the distribution system. Ukiah water quality is consistently better than that required by both the United States Environmental Protection (USEPA) and the California Department for Public Health (CDPH).

The Wastewater Treatment Plant, operational since 1958, serves the City of Ukiah and the Ukiah Valley Sanitation District. It has a current treatment capacity of 2.8 million gallons per day (MGD) of dry weather flow and 20 MGD of peak wet weather flow. Primary treatment removes floating material, oils and greases, sand and silt and organic solids heavy enough to settle in water. Secondary treatment biologically removes most of the suspended and dissolved organic material. The Wastewater Treatment Plant underwent a three year, \$56.5M improvement project that was completed in 2009 (City of Ukiah, <http://www.cityofukiah.com/waste-water-treatment-plant/>, Accessed June 30, 2014).

Water and Sewer personnel are responsible for the operation and maintenance of the City of Ukiah's water distribution system and the City's sewer collection system that includes the Ukiah Valley Sanitation District. Crews respond to service calls for water mains, water services, fire hydrants, and water valves. They also respond to blockage problems concerning the sewer collection system and house service laterals from the main to the sewer line. Collection system facilities are serviced on a routine basis or as necessary (City of Ukiah, <http://www.cityofukiah.com/water-and-sewer-field/>, Accessed June 30, 2014).

#### **PROPOSED PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION**

The Proposed Project would create 90 new inmate beds, with the potential to increase water usage in the district by 8,280 GPD. This value is based on an estimated water usage of 92 GPD per inmate. This represents a 0.08 percent increase on the Ukiah Public Utility system, which would not result in a significant impact on the City's water supply and no upgrades to any existing water lines or facilities would be required (City of Ukiah 2010b).

### **4.13 WASTEWATER DISPOSAL**

The Ukiah Public Utility Wastewater Treatment Plant serves the City of Ukiah and Ukiah Valley Sanitation District (UVSD). The plant uses primary treatment methods to remove floating

material, oils, greases, sand, silt, and organic solids heavy enough to settle in water and secondary treatment to biologically remove suspended and dissolved organic material (City of Ukiah 2014a).

The WWTP was built in 1958 and provided secondary treatment at an average dry weather flow capacity of 2.5 million gallons per day (MGD) and wet weather flow capacity of 10.5 MGD. Since then, the facility has been upgraded several times, the most recent upgrade having occurred in 2009 to meet Title 22 recycled water standards, as well as existing and anticipated needs. The upgrade resulted in an additional 2,400 equivalent sewer service units (ESSUs) becoming available to the City and the District to accommodate growth. Since the City's needs were limited to infill development, the parties determined the District had the greater need. Consequently, the ESSUs made available by the increased capacity were allocated 65 percent to the District (1,560 ESSUs) and 35 percent to the City (840 ESSUs).

As of January 31, 2012, the District had 1,061 ESSUs remaining of their 1,560 share and the City had 542.39 remaining of their 840 share. The WWTP includes primary, secondary, and tertiary treatment facilities, as well as solids handling facilities. The tertiary treatment facilities are referred to as Advanced Wastewater Treatment (AWT).

In 2005, the City began a three-year, \$56.5 million improvement project to upgrade the facility to ensure reliable and continued compliance with permit requirements, and to increase capacity to an average annual flow of 5.7 MGD by 2025. The upgrade was completed in May of 2010. Current capacities are 3.01 MGD for average dry weather flow, 6.89 MGD for average wet weather flow, and 24.5 MGD for peak wet weather flow.

#### **PROPOSED PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION**

The Proposed Project has the potential to increase wastewater discharge to the system by 8,280 GPD. This value is based on an estimated wastewater discharge of 92 GPD per inmate. This represents a 0.08 percent increase on the Ukiah system. Since the Proposed Project is not considered a new connection and would not require the extension of a sewer main, it is not affected by the suspension of new service connections. The Wastewater Treatment Plant improvement project completed in 2009 ensures there would be more than adequate capacity to accommodate the small increase in wastewater that would result from the Proposed Project. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

### **4.14 ENERGY SUPPLY**

The Electric Division of Ukiah Public Utilities provides electric Power for the MCJ. The City of Ukiah is Mendocino County's only customer-owned electric utility and supplies electricity to approximately 16,000 plus residences and businesses. In July 2006, peak demand was 36 megawatts. Average energy use is 115,000 megawatts-hours. One megawatt-hour is approximately equivalent to the amount of electricity required to power 330 homes for one continuous hour. In 2010, the power content of the City of Ukiah was 39.9 percent geothermal, 11.9 percent small hydroelectric, 17.5 percent large hydroelectric, and 30.8 percent unspecified. Renewable generation from hydropower and geothermal provide 69.2 percent of Ukiah's power needs (California Municipal Utilities Association 2012).

Energy is transmitted to Ukiah (Orchard Substation) through the California transmission grid operated by the California Independent System Operator (Cal-ISO). The power is received at 115,000 volts at the Orchard Substation and then converted to a distribution level voltage of 12 kV. The substation is located near the corner of Gobbi Street and Orchard Avenue. The City has recently completed a new substation at the same location. The new substation will provide sufficient electricity for the City and the Proposed Project site for 20 to 30 years. The distribution system includes 48 miles of underground cable and 65 miles of overhead wires, serving 8,200 customers (E Mulberg Associates 2012).

#### PROPOSED PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

The 2012 LAFCO of Mendocino County City of Ukiah - Final Municipal Service Review (E Mulberg Associates 2012) indicates that the City would have sufficient capacity to meet the requirements for expansion associated with the Proposed Project. Minor upgrades to on-site transformers, electric panels, and lines may be required during construction, but these would not affect the quality of service to MCJ or surrounding residents. Upgrades would be identified as part of the plan review process. Therefore, the Proposed Project would have no significant effect on energy resources.

### 4.15 SOLID WASTE

C and S Waste Solutions operates the Ukiah Valley Transfer Station Located at 3151 Taylor Drive, approximately 4 miles south of the Proposed Project site. Solid waste collected at the transfer station is transported to Northern California landfills (City of Ukiah 2014a). The Transfer station is open to the public between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday. Yard Waste and Recyclables including newspaper, cardboard, paperboard, tin cans, aluminum cans, plastic containers glass and office paper are also processed at the Ukiah Valley Transfer Station (City of Ukiah, 2014). The City of Ukiah currently has a very aggressive recycling program. C and S Waste Solutions is responsible for all garbage collection within the city limits. Private haulers are allowed to collect garbage outside of the city limits for drop off at the Ukiah Valley Transfer Station. C and S Systems (City of Ukiah, 2014) collects solid waste from the MCJ.

#### PROPOSED PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

Implementation of the Proposed Project would have a minimal effect on waste management in the community. The Proposed Project would not result in the generation of a significant enough increase to effect the overall management operations of the Ukiah waste collection system. The Transfer Station has sufficient capacity to handle the additional waste generated by the expansion of the MCJ.

### 4.16 HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

Hazardous materials currently in use at MCJ include small quantities of paints, oils solvents, and pesticides. Small quantities of spent solvents and paints are produced by the facility all of which are properly disposed. There is no known contamination at the Proposed Project site or on adjacent properties.

#### PROPOSED PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

The Proposed Project is not expected to affect the amount of hazardous materials used at the facility or the amount of hazardous wastes generated. If the existing facility is demolished or remodeled, all OSHA requirements regarding the identification, handling and removal of ACMs and any lead-based paints would be met.

### 4.17 TRANSPORTATION

MCJ is located on Low Gap Road (see Figure 1). Low Gap Road is a two-lane-dashed connector road with a maximum speed of 30 miles per hour (mph). There are no transportation-related capacity issues for Low Gap Road, and the roadway appears to be operating at a high level-of-service. However, the nearby intersection of Low Gap and Bush Creek Road is a concern of the city. At 7:30 am and 3pm, traffic associated with the local High School causes minor delays at the intersection. Correctional officers arrive and depart in separate shifts between 7:00 am and 7:00 pm. Administrative staff arrive at 8:00 am and depart at 5:00 pm. Visitor traffic to the MCJ occurs between the hours of 1:00 pm and 10:00 pm, 6 days per week, Sunday through Friday. The daily peak time when traffic is heaviest on Low Gap Road is 3:00 pm when students from local schools disburse (Tim Pearce 2014). This localized traffic associated with school hours has made this intersection a candidate for signalization.

Parking is currently available for all employees at the MCJ facility and there are no parking capacity issues.

#### PROPOSED PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

The Proposed Project would require the hiring of an additional five employees to work at the MCJ. As described above, peak arrival and departure times at the MCJ do not directly coincide with those of the High School. Low Gap Road appears to be operating at a high level-of-service. Therefore, the negligible impact from the small increase of employees would not cause a significant traffic impact. Additional vehicle trips associated with construction of the Proposed Project would be temporary. Given the high level-of-service currently experienced for Low Gap Road, there would be a negligible, insignificant, and temporary impact to traffic and transportation in the surrounding area.

Parking at the MCJ facility is adequate to accommodate the increased number of employees. Therefore, the Proposed Project would have no impact on parking at the MCJ or in the surrounding area.

### 4.18 AIR QUALITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE (GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS)

#### 4.18.1 AIR QUALITY

The City of Ukiah, like the rest of Mendocino County, is non-attainment for the state PM-10 standard. The primary sources of PM-10 are wood combustion emissions, fugitive dust from construction projects, automobile emissions, and industry. Some of the automobile emissions are the result of “pass-through” traffic on 101 because of its nature as a major transportation corridor

in the state. The District has full monitoring stations (NOx, Ozone, CO and PM-10) in both Ukiah and Willits. A PM-2.5 monitor has been established in Ukiah. Both Ukiah and Willits have had PM-10 exceedances in the past. Winter cold-air inversions are common in the valleys from November to February (Mendocino County Air Quality Management District 2014).

#### **PROPOSED PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION**

Construction of the Proposed Project would create minor, short-term increases in vehicle emissions and elevated particulate levels. These increases would be minimized through the implementation of standard best management practices (BMPs) such as dust suppression and the use of well-maintained construction vehicles. Therefore, minimal impacts on air quality would be expected. Boilers and emergency generators installed at the Proposed Project facility would meet current emissions standards and would not result in emissions that would affect the attainment status of the area. No long-term impacts on air quality would occur.

#### **4.18.2 CLIMATE CHANGE (GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS)**

Climate change is presently thought to be both naturally occurring and induced by increases in the amounts of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) and other greenhouse gases (GHGs) in the earth's atmosphere attributable to the burning of fossil fuels. The burning of fossil fuels (mostly coal and oil) is the primary manmade cause of greenhouse gases. The State of California has enacted the following legislation to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> and GHG emissions:

Executive Order S-3-05 (June 2005) set GHG emission targets for the State starting with a reduction to 2000 GHG emission levels by 2010, 10 percent below 1990 levels by 2020 and concluding with a reduction to 80 percent below 1990 numbers by 2050. This Order also directed state agencies to develop a Climate Action Plan (CAP) and report progress on meeting the statewide targets.

- AB 32 (2006) established limits on GHG emissions for the State of California and the regulatory framework needed to reach the targets - 10 percent below 1990 GHG emissions level to be achieved by 2020.
- SB 375 (2008) established planning concepts intended to reduce vehicle travel by promoting more compact development.
- These legislative goals set the emission targets that Mendocino County will eventually be required to attain. While explicit thresholds and requirements have yet to be developed, various state agencies have begun to examine proposed land use plans and specific projects for their potential GHG impacts.

The City of Ukiah has prepared a Public Draft CAP (March 2014) outlining the strategies, goals, and actions for reducing municipal and community-wide GHG emissions. The baseline 2005 Community GHG Emissions Inventory for Ukiah includes 155,480 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalents (MT CO<sub>2</sub>e), which decreased to 144,625 MT CO<sub>2</sub>e in 2010. Emissions from municipal operations, included in the community inventory, were 1,969 MT CO<sub>2</sub>e in 2005 and 1,814 MT CO<sub>2</sub>e in 2010. Under business-as-usual (BAU) conditions, annual community GHG emissions are forecasted to be

149,108 MT CO<sub>2</sub>e by 2020. To be consistent with the AB 32 goal, the City must reduce its annual emissions to approximately 132,158 MT CO<sub>2</sub>e by the year 2020. This is a reduction of 11 percent (16,950 MT CO<sub>2</sub>e) from the 2020 BAU forecast.

Several initiatives at the state level will reduce GHG emissions in the City of Ukiah. The 'adjusted' 2020 forecast for Ukiah, including anticipated reductions from statewide measures, is 132,437 MT CO<sub>2</sub>e – nearly enough for the City to meet its 2020 target. The CAP outlines local GHG reduction strategies and actions that will enable the City to attain (and likely exceed) the 2020 target. It also considers the years beyond 2020, when deeper reductions in global GHG emissions will be needed (City of Ukiah 2014b).

#### PROPOSED PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

Negligible, temporary GHG emissions from the Proposed Project would be produced from construction-related equipment emissions and fuel use. Expansion of the MCJ would not result in the generation of additional permanent vehicle trips. Project operations would adhere to statewide efforts to reduce GHGs and thus not conflict with regulations adopted for reducing the emission of greenhouse gases. No long-term impacts on GHGs would occur.

### 4.19 NOISE AND LIGHT POLLUTION

There are no significant noise-generating activities at MCJ during routine operations. The surrounding areas consist of county buildings and a cemetery. There have been no incidences of noise complaints from the local residents. Currently, the MCJ does not have perimeter fence lighting and there have been no complaints to the facility or the city in regards to lighting.

#### PROPOSED PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

The Proposed Project would not add any new noise sources to the existing facility that would alter the permanent baseline noise level. Noise during demolition and construction activities for the Proposed Project would be minor, short-term, and restricted to the property and immediate vicinity. In order to minimize construction noise, all construction equipment would be maintained in good working condition with standard muffling apparatus installed and maintained. Limiting demolition and construction activities to daytime hours would further mitigate noise impacts.

No additional perimeter lighting would be added to the facility as part of the Proposed Project, and exterior construction activities would be limited to the site during day light hours. Therefore, the Proposed Project would have no effect on noise or light pollution.

### 4.20 PUBLIC HEALTH

The Environmental Health Division consists of 22 employees who safeguard the public's health from environmental hazards through community education efforts and by enforcement of state and local laws. The Environmental Health Division ensures safe supplies of food and water, monitors the proper management of wastes and hazardous materials, investigates environmental health-related causes of illness, and abates hazardous environmental health conditions.

Environmental Health programs fall into four categories: Land Use, Consumer Protection, Hazardous Materials, and Solid Waste.

#### PROPOSED PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

Implementation of the Proposed Project would not affect public health in Ukiah or Mendocino County. See sections 4.9, Land Use; 4.16, Hazardous Materials; and 4.15, Solid Waste). Consumer Protection is not considered an environmental concern and therefore, was not considered in the scope of this IS/ND.

### 4.21 CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

There are no ongoing state, county, or municipal projects in the vicinity of the Proposed Project location that in conjunction with the Proposed Project would have the potential to cause significant cumulative impacts on the local environment.

### 4.22 MITIGATION OF ADVERSE IMPACTS

There are no significant adverse impacts identified for the Proposed Project that would require mitigation. Adverse short-term impacts during construction would be negligible to minor in severity and would be mitigated even further through the use of best management practice (BMPs) for erosion and sedimentation control, control of fugitive dust, vehicle emissions controls, limiting construction activity to daytime hours, and similar measures to be specified and monitored by the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office.

### 4.23 SUMMARY OF IMPACTS

The Proposed Project, the Expansion of the MCJ, 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 and Floodplains, Biological Resources, Protected Species, Cultural and Archaeological Resources, Farmland Protection, Demographics and Environmental Justice, Land Use and Recreation, Education, Community Services, Water Supply, Wastewater Disposal, Energy Supply, Solid Waste, Hazardous Materials, Transportation, Air Quality and Climate Change (Greenhouse Gases), or Noise and Light Pollution.

### 4.24 MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Proposed Project, the Expansion of the MCJ, would not result in any significant impacts as described in Section 15065 of CEQA Guidelines; therefore, preparation of an EIR is not required.

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## 5.0 AGENCIES CONSULTED AND REFERENCES

### 5.1 PERSONAL COMMUNICATIONS

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### 5.2 DOCUMENTS AND INTERNET DATA SOURCES

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## APPENDIX A – PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT SITE

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PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT SITE











Mendocino County Jail Expansion Proposed Schematic. The new construction would occur on land between two existing buildings currently used as an exercise yard and outdoor space within the footprint of the existing MCJ Complex.



## APPENDIX B – INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST

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## CEQA ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

This checklist identifies physical, biological, social, and economic factors that might be affected by the proposed project. In many cases, background studies performed in connection with the projects indicate no impacts. A NO IMPACT answer in the last column reflects this determination. The words "significant" and "significance" used throughout the checklist are related to CEQA, not NEPA, impacts. The questions are intended to encourage thoughtful assessment of impacts and do not represent thresholds of significance.

Will the project result in the following environmental effects:	No	Yes			
		Not Significant	Significant Unless It is Mitigated	Significant - No Apparent Mitigation	Cumulative
<b>1. EARTH:</b>					
A. Unstable earth conditions or changes in geologic substructures.	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
B. Disruptions, displacements, compaction, or overcovering of the soil.	<input type="checkbox"/>	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
C. Change in topography or ground surface relief features.	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
D. The destruction, covering, or modification of any unique geologic or physical features.	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
E. Any increase in wind or water erosion of soils, either on or off the site.	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
F. Changes in deposition or erosion of beach sands, or changes in siltation, deposition, or erosion that may modify the channel of a river, stream, inlet, or bay?	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
G. Exposure of people or property to geologic hazards such as earthquakes, ground failure, or other hazards.	<input type="checkbox"/>	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>2. AIR:</b>					
A. Substantial air emissions or deterioration of ambient air quality.	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
B. The creation of objectionable odors.	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
C. Alteration of air movement, moisture, or temperature, or any change in climate, either locally or regionally?	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>3. WATER:</b>					
A. Changes in currents, or the course of water movements, in either fresh or marine waters.	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
B. Changes in absorption rates, drainage patterns, or the rate and amount of surface runoff.	<input type="checkbox"/>	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
C. Alterations to the course of flow of flood waters.	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
D. Change in the amount of surface water in any water body.	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
E. Discharge into surface waters, or in any alteration of surface water quality, including but not limited to temperature, dissolved oxygen or turbidity.	<input type="checkbox"/>	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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Will the project result in the following environmental effects:	No	Yes			Cumulative
		Not Significant	Significant Unless It is Mitigated	Significant - No Apparent Mitigation	
F. Alteration of the direction or rate of flow of ground water.	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
G. Change in the quantity of ground water, either through direct additions or withdrawals, or through interception of an aquifer by cuts or excavations.	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
H. Substantial reduction in the amount of water otherwise available for public water supplies.	<input type="checkbox"/>	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I. Exposure of people or property to water related hazards such as flooding or tsunamis.	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>4. PLANT LIFE:</b>					
A. Change in the diversity of species, or number of any species of plants including trees, shrubs, grass, crops, and aquatic plants.	<input type="checkbox"/>	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
B. Reduction of the numbers of any unique, rare, or endangered species of plants.	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
C. Introduction of new species of plants into an area, or in a barrier to the normal replenishment of existing species.	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
D. Reduction in acreage of any agricultural crop.	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>5. ANIMAL LIFE:</b>					
A. Change in the diversity of species, or number of any species of animals including birds, land animals, reptiles, fish, shellfish, insects, and benthic organisms.	<input type="checkbox"/>	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
B. Reduction in the number of any unique, rare, or endangered species of animals.	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
C. Introduction of new species of animals into an area, or in a barrier to the migration or movement of animals.	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
D. Deterioration of existing fish or wildlife habitat.	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>6. NOISE:</b>					
A. Increases in existing noise levels.	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
B. Exposure of people to severe noise levels.	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

EXPANSION OF THE MENDOCINO COUNTY JAIL, CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS  
DRAFT INITIAL STUDY/PROPOSED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

Will the project result in the following environmental effects:	No	Yes			Cumulative
		Not Significant	Significant Unless It is Mitigated	Significant - No Apparent Mitigation	
<b>7. LIGHT AND GLARE:</b>					
A. Production of new light and glare.	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>8. LAND USE:</b>					
A. Substantial alteration of the present or planned land use of a given area.	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>9. NATURAL RESOURCES:</b>					
A. Increase in the rate of use of any natural resources.	<input type="checkbox"/>	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>10. POPULATION:</b>					
A. Alterations in the location, distribution, density, or growth rate of human populations.	<input type="checkbox"/>	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>11. HOUSING:</b>					
A. Will the proposal affect existing housing or create a demand for new housing?	<input type="checkbox"/>	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>12. TRANSPORTATION/ CIRCULATION:</b>					
A. Generation of substantial additional vehicular movement?	<input type="checkbox"/>	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
B. Effects on existing parking facilities, or demand for new parking?	<input type="checkbox"/>	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
C. Substantial impact upon existing transportation systems?	<input type="checkbox"/>	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
D. Alterations to present patterns of circulation or movement of people and/or goods?	<input type="checkbox"/>	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
E. Alterations to waterborne, rail, or air traffic?	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
F. Increase in traffic hazards to motor vehicles, bicyclists, or pedestrians.	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>13. PUBLIC SERVICES:</b>					
A. Will the proposal have an effect upon, or result in a need for new or altered government services in any of the following areas:					
Fire protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Police protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Schools?	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Parks and other recreational facilities?	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maintenance of public facilities, and roads?	<input type="checkbox"/>	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other governmental services?	<input type="checkbox"/>	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

EXPANSION OF THE MENDOCINO COUNTY JAIL, CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS  
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Will the project result in the following environmental effects:	No	Yes			Cumulative
		Not Significant	Significant Unless It is Mitigated	Significant - No Apparent Mitigation	
<b>14. ENERGY:</b>					
A. Use of substantial amounts of fuel or energy?	<input type="checkbox"/>	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
B. Substantial increase in demand upon existing sources of energy, or require the development of new energy sources?	<input type="checkbox"/>	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>15. UTILITIES:</b>					
A. Will the project result in a need for new systems or substantial alterations to the following:					
Potable water?	<input type="checkbox"/>	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sewerage?	<input type="checkbox"/>	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Energy or information transmission lines?	<input type="checkbox"/>	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>16. HUMAN HEALTH:</b>					
A. Creation of any health hazard or potential health hazard?	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
B. Exposure of people to any existing health hazards?	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
C. A risk of an explosion or the release of hazardous substances (including oil, pesticides, chemicals, or radiation) in the event of an accident or upset conditions.	<input type="checkbox"/>	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
D. Possible interference with an emergency response plan or evacuation plan.	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>17. AESTHETICS:</b>					
A. Obstruction of any scenic vista or view open to the public, or create an aesthetically offensive site open to public view?	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>18. RECREATION:</b>					
A. Impact upon the quality or quantity of existing recreational opportunities?	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>19. CULTURAL RESOURCES:</b>					
A. Alteration or destruction of a prehistoric or historic archaeological site?	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
B. Adverse physical or aesthetic effects to a prehistoric or historic building or structure?	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Will the project result in the following environmental effects:	No	Yes			
		Not Significant	Significant Unless It is Mitigated	Significant - No Apparent Mitigation	Cumulative
C. Cause a physical change that would affect the unique ethnic cultural values?	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
D. Restrict existing religious or sacred uses within the potential impact area?	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

<b>Section III</b>	<b>Responses to Environmental Checklist.</b>
	<b>For a discussion of each of the environmental effects listed in the Environmental Checklist along with related goals and policies of the General Plan, see the Environmental Review section of the attached staff report.</b>

<b>Section IV</b>	<b>Mandatory Findings of Significance.</b>
	<p>A. As discussed in the preceding sections, the project <input type="checkbox"/>does ✓does not have the potential to significantly degrade the quality of the environment, including effects on animals or plants, or to eliminate historic or prehistoric sites.</p> <p>B. As discussed in the preceding sections, both short-term and long-term environmental effects associated with the project will be <input type="checkbox"/>significant ✓will be less than significant.</p> <p>C. When impacts associated with the project are considered alone or in combination with other impacts, the project-related impacts are <input type="checkbox"/>significant ✓insignificant.</p> <p>D. The above discussions <input type="checkbox"/>do ✓do not identify any substantial adverse impacts to people as a result of the project.</p>

<b>Section V</b>	<b>Determination.</b>
	<p>On the basis of this initial evaluation, it has been determined that:</p> <p>✓ The proposed project will not have a significant effect on the environment, and it is recommended that a NEGATIVE DECLARATION be adopted.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Although the project, as proposed, could have had a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because mitigation measures required for the project will reduce potentially significant effects to a less than significant level, therefore, it is recommended that a NEGATIVE DECLARATION be adopted.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> The proposed project may have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.</p>

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## APPENDIX C – CORRESPONDENCE

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EDMUND G. BROWN JR.  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE *of* PLANNING AND RESEARCH  
STATE CLEARINGHOUSE AND PLANNING UNIT



KEN ALEX  
DIRECTOR

September 11, 2014

Captain Tim Pearce  
Mendocino County Dept of Corrections  
951 Low Gap Road  
Ukiah, CA 95492

Subject: Mendocino County Jail Expansion IS/Neg Dec  
SCH#: 2014082034

Dear Captain Tim Pearce:

The State Clearinghouse submitted the above named Negative Declaration to selected state agencies for review. The review period closed on September 10, 2014, and no state agencies submitted comments by that date. This letter acknowledges that you have complied with the State Clearinghouse review requirements for draft environmental documents, pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act.

Please call the State Clearinghouse at (916) 445-0613 if you have any questions regarding the environmental review process. If you have a question about the above-named project, please refer to the ten-digit State Clearinghouse number when contacting this office.

Sincerely,



Scott Morgan  
Director, State Clearinghouse

**Document Details Report  
State Clearinghouse Data Base**

**SCH#** 2014082034  
**Project Title** Mendocino County Jail Expansion IS/Neg Dec  
**Lead Agency** Mendocino County

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**Type** Neg Negative Declaration  
**Description** Mendocino County proposes to expand the Mendocino County Jail in Ukiah, CA. The proposed facility expansion includes construction of 90 new maximum security beds in three pods with one recreation yard in each pod, a classroom, a visitors' center, and a medical exam/procedure room. This expansion is in response to CA's legislation requiring shifted responsibilities from its overcrowded and expensive state prison system to the counties. This reform eliminates the practice of returning technical parole violators to state prison and designates a series of offenses that are now punishable by jail sentences rather than prison sentences. AB 109 and AB 117 enables CA to close the revolving door of inmates cycling in and out of state prison.

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**Lead Agency Contact**

**Name** Captain Tim Pearce  
**Agency** Mendocino County Dept of Corrections  
**Phone** 707 463 4559 **Fax**  
**email**  
**Address** 951 Low Gap Road  
**City** Ukiah **State** CA **Zip** 95492

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**Project Location**

**County** Mendocino  
**City** Ukiah  
**Region**  
**Lat / Long**  
**Cross Streets** North Bush Street and Despina Drive  
**Parcel No.** 001-020-11 & 001-020-77  

<b>Township</b>	<b>Range</b>	<b>Section</b>	<b>Base</b>
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**Proximity to:**

**Highways** Hwy 101  
**Airports** No  
**Railways** Yes  
**Waterways** Orr Creek  
**Schools** Yes  
**Land Use** Municipal (Sheriff's Office Complex, Jail Facility)

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**Project Issues** Aesthetic/Visual; Air Quality; Archaeologic-Historic; Biological Resources; Drainage/Absorption; Economics/Jobs; Flood Plain/Flooding; Geologic/Seismic; Noise; Population/Housing Balance; Public Services; Recreation/Parks; Schools/Universities; Sewer Capacity; Soil Erosion/Compaction/Grading; Solid Waste; Toxic/Hazardous; Traffic/Circulation; Vegetation; Water Quality; Water Supply; Wetland/Riparian; Landuse; Cumulative Effects

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**Reviewing Agencies** Resources Agency; Department of Conservation; Department of Fish and Wildlife, Region 1E; Office of Historic Preservation; Department of Parks and Recreation; Department of Water Resources; California Highway Patrol; Caltrans, District 1; Air Resources Board; Regional Water Quality Control Board, Region 1; Department of Toxic Substances Control; Native American Heritage Commission

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**Date Received** 08/12/2014 **Start of Review** 08/12/2014 **End of Review** 09/10/2014

# EXPANSION OF THE MENDOCINO COUNTY JAIL, CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS



INITIAL STUDY/NEGATIVE DECLARATION  
NOVEMBER 2014



Prepared by: Potomac-Hudson Engineering, Inc.  
Prepared for: Mendocino County Sheriff's Office