NEWS

From Supervisor Gary Ovitt

Fourth District, San Bernardino County

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Ovitt Introduces Resolution Opposing Creation of Mental Health Facility in Chino

San Bernardino – The Board of Supervisors unanimously approved a resolution introduced, by Supervisor Gary Ovitt, denouncing the state's proposal to place a mental health facility on the grounds of Chino Institute for Men (C.I.M.) on Tuesday.

The California State Department of Corrections recently received funding to conduct an environmental impact study on a potential 1,500-bed facility that will house criminals with mental illnesses.

"At one time the Chino Valley was an agricultural area, and that's where prisons were located," stated Supervisor Ovitt. "However, in the past 15 years, the explosion of new neighborhoods, schools, and parks combined with an influx of new residents into the area has created an impractical to place another prison facility."

The county resolution adopts a non-support position to the proposed facility and joins the City of Chino and Chino Hills as well the Chino Valley School District in opposition to this new prison facility.

"In a recent article pertaining to a State Mental Health Facility in Napa, Doctors argued that any facility which houses the criminally insane is an inherently dangerous place since most facilities have inadequate personnel to deal with the rise and increase of high risk offenders," stated Ovitt. "To maintain minimal staff levels, administrators often must rely on unlicensed and temporary workers. Residents in the Chino Valley deserve better."

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