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## San Mateo County to seek bond funding for new \$155 million jail

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Financially troubled San Mateo County may go into debt to pay for its new \$155 million jail in Redwood City.

On Tuesday, the board of supervisors is expected to decide whether to seek bond funding to pay for the yet to be constructed correctional facility, planned for a 4.8-acre site on Chemical Way.

Supervisors used \$17.4 million in county reserves to purchase the site and will likely tap them to fund construction of the jail, according to county spokesman Marshall Wilson. Bonds, which the county would seek sometime in the next three years, would be used to backfill the reserves and not depend on asking voters to raise taxes, he said.

Sheriff Greg Munks said the county is also hoping to get state funding for the facility through Assembly Bill 900, passed by legislators in 2007 for jail construction projects.

Although the county is grappling with a deficit projected to exceed \$100 million by 2015, Munks said the county can't put off building a new jail. The county could face lawsuits because of overcrowding, or a federal judge might order the release of inmates.

"When people say, 'Can we afford to do it?' I say we can't afford not to do it," Munks said.

The county is in the design phase for the new facility, which could house as many as 768 inmates. The jail is expected to open by the end of 2013, Munks said.

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