The LA Sheriff is attempting to move forward with a plan to build a new women’s jail in Lancaster. We believe that locking people up in cages does not make anyone safer, and only serves to tear communities apart. We are working to stop this jail, and are demanding investment in resources that actually create strong communities.

WHAT WE WANT

* **Pretrial Diversion & Bail Reform**
  50% of the county’s jail population is pretrial. This means they have not yet been convicted of anything, or sentenced to any time, but are locked up simply for not being able to afford bail. We must stop locking up poor people.

* **Mental Health Diversion & Care**
  People dealing with mental health issues make up at least 20% of the jail population. Women, particularly women of color, face severe medical neglect and abuse while locked up. A jail is no place to treat people, we want community based healthcare so that people can actually get the resources they need.

* **Reentry Programs**
  The population in LA women’s jails has been steadily declining, and will continue to do so with reforms like Prop 47. So why is the county wasting $103 million for a new women’s jail? We should work to reduce the jail population, and use that money for more reentry programs that support people once they are reunited with their communities.

* **Community Resources & Alternatives to Imprisonment**
  Strong and safe communities are ultimately a result of having access to affordable housing, healthcare, and education, as well as resources for survivors of sexual and domestic violence. Building more jails will only mean less resources and more harm for our communities.

LANoMoreJails.org | crla@criticalresistance.org
JAILS HARM COMMUNITIES AND DESTROY THE ENVIRONMENT

As part of building a jail, the county must do an Environmental Impact Report, which assesses the negative impacts that the construction of the jail will have on the environment and the people. Jails are terrible environmentally, worsening things like traffic pollution and the degradation of natural resources. Prisoners in this area are also highly susceptible to serious diseases like Valley Fever. The county must do what is best for our environment and our communities and put an end to this jail plan.

WHY WE OPPOSE THIS JAIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL GROUNDS

★ People in the jail will be highly susceptible to Valley Fever. Since 2005, thousands of California prisoners contracted the disease, and over 50 have died as a result. Yet, Valley Fever is basically ignored in this report.

★ The site where the jail will be is a “hazardous materials site.” Building it will put those inside the jail in significant danger.

★ A new jail in Lancaster will mean more travel, creating more traffic and pollution.

★ Family visits are crucial for prisoners to maintain strong connections and reduce recidivism. The longer distance makes it harder for family members to visit their loved ones who are locked up.

★ Two underground storage tanks at the site have failed leak detection tests, which means there could be contamination of soil and groundwater.

★ For people at the jail, there is a high risk of exposure to contaminated soil and ground since 44% of the project site will be “outdoor pervious area.”

★ Stormwater drainage and the water supply are not up to current standards.

The Environmental Impact Report must assess alternatives to building the jail. However, the report does not look at alternatives to imprisonment that would make this jail completely unnecessary.