

**Governing Board of the Peralta Community College District
Board Resolution 09/10-36**

Resolution for an End to Death Sentences in Alameda County

Whereas the death penalty has been rejected by a large majority of nations and most major religions; the death penalty is not used by 14 of our own states; more than 138 innocent people have been freed from death rows across the U.S. after spending years in prison for crimes they did not commit – some coming within days or hours of execution; and there are racial and geographic disparities in the application of the death penalty;

Whereas death penalty cases cost Alameda County taxpayers millions more than permanent incarceration but do not make us safer, while those resources could be better used to solve more crimes or for other effective public safety programs;

Whereas Alameda County has historically sent more people to death row than any other Bay Area county, even after adjusting for murder rates and population size;

Whereas the District Attorney in neighboring San Francisco has chosen to pursue alternatives instead of the death penalty, allowing her to invest resources in proven violence prevention programs;

Believing that it is time for public safety priorities to change in Alameda County, we the Peralta Community College District Governing Board, therefore resolve that, we call on:

- 1) The District Attorney of Alameda County to stop pursuing the death penalty; and
- 2) The District Attorney and the Board of Supervisors of Alameda County to invest in solving homicides, violence prevention, and effective public safety programs.

APPROVED by unanimous vote at the regularly scheduled meeting of the Governing Board on December 15, 2009, unless the Board minutes reflect otherwise.

Elihu Harris
Chancellor and Secretary of the Board



**Alameda County Coalition
FOR ALTERNATIVES TO THE
DEATH PENALTY**

www.AlamedaDeathPenalty.org

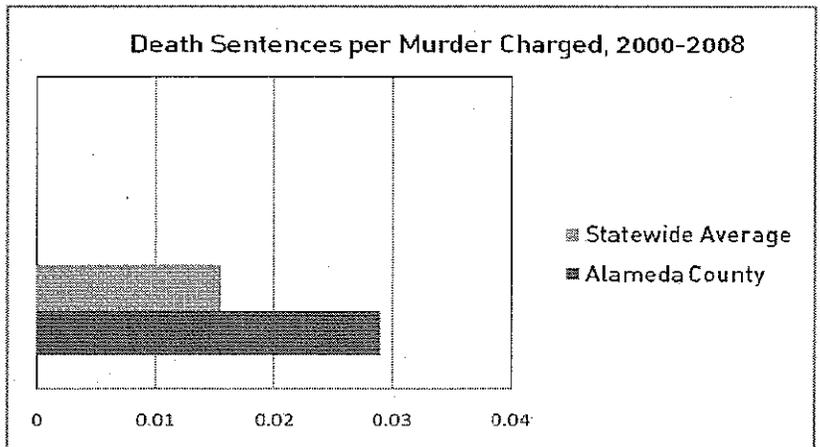
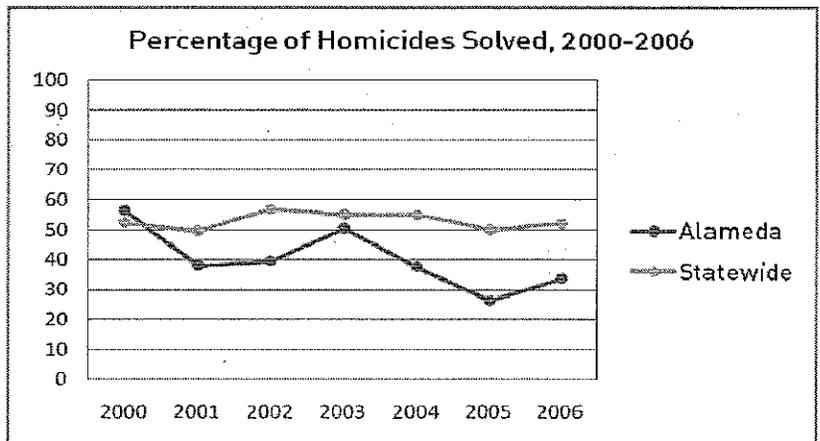
Alameda County Death Penalty Fact Sheet

Bottom Line: \$17.6 million or more wasted seeking execution since 2000.

**Alameda ranks 3rd in total death sentences since 2000,
while more than half of homicides go unsolved.**

	Average Homicide Rate 2000-2006	Average Percentage of Homicides Solved 2000-2006	Average Death Sentences per Year 2000-2008
Alameda County	8.77 per 100,000	40.3%	1.78
Rank among 24 largest counties	3 rd	23 rd	3 rd

- Each death penalty trial costs Alameda County approximately **\$1.1 million more** than a murder trial where the defendant is condemned to permanent imprisonment.
- Both defense and prosecution costs are far greater in death penalty trials than in standard murder trials. These expenses come out of the county budget, at the expense of other programs.
- There is no way to make death penalty trials less expensive. We have to use every possible protection to make sure we don't execute innocent people, or sentence people to death for the wrong reasons such as race or poverty.
- The Alameda County District Attorney decides when to pursue a death sentence. The DA is also an elected official accountable to the voters of the County.



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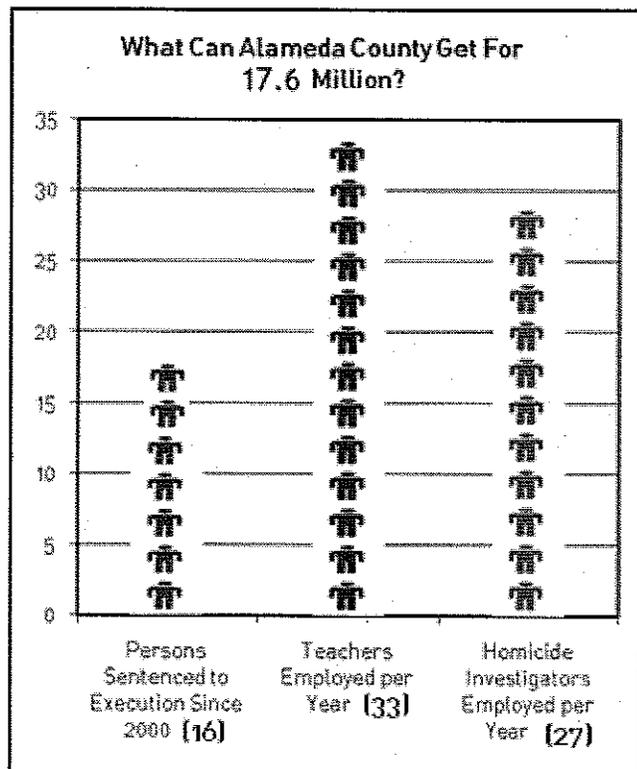
www.AlamedaDeathPenalty.org

Alameda County Sentences More People to Execution than Most Counties.

- Among the 24 largest counties in the state, Alameda County ranks 3rd for total death sentences from 2000 to 2008, 3rd for death sentences per capita and 3rd for death sentences per murder charged.
- Compared to Fresno, Alameda County sends ten times as many people to death row per murder charged.
- Compared to Los Angeles County, Alameda County sends more than twice as many people to death row per murder charged.
- Among Bay Area counties, Alameda County alone has sentenced more than three times as many people to death since 2000 as Santa Clara, San Mateo, Sonoma and Napa combined. Three Bay Area counties have had no death sentences since 2000 (Solano, Marin and San Francisco).

The estimated **\$17.6 million** Alameda County has spent seeking execution since 2000 could have funded the salaries of:

- 33 additional experienced high school teachers per year;
- or
- 27 additional homicide investigators per year.



Sources

Data reflects the most recent years available from the sources below.
 California Department of Justice, Criminal Justice Statistics Center, available at: <http://ag.ca.gov/cjsc/>
 California Department of Education, available at: <http://www.cde.ca.gov>
 California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, capital punishment information, available at: http://www.cdcr.ca.gov/Reports_Research/capital.html
 U.S. Census Bureau, California information available at: <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/06000.html>
 U.S. Department of Labor Statistics, available at: <http://www.bls.gov/>

California's Death Penalty is Broken— We Have a Better Alternative

1. Permanent Imprisonment Best Serves our Priorities: Punish and Protect

We all know that terrible crimes must be severely punished and dangerous people must be taken off the street FOREVER. In California, we can condemn the worst offenders to permanent imprisonment. Permanent imprisonment is severe, swift and certain punishment. It protects us and our families, and locks up the worst offenders for good. It ensures that we don't execute an innocent person and stops us from wasting \$100 million each year on the death penalty. That would mean \$100 million more we could use to catch other murders who currently walk free on our streets.

2. Every Victims Family Deserves Swift and Certain Justice

The death penalty is neither. Death penalty cases drag on for years, prolonging the pain and suffering of victims' families. Death penalty cases make media stars out of killers and waste scarce public safety resources. Permanent imprisonment provides victims certain, swift and severe punishment. It also allows us to use our resources responsibly to catch more killers rather than wasting money on the costly death penalty. Permanent imprisonment provides peace of mind to more victims.

3. The Death Penalty Wastes the Resources We Need for Public Safety

The death penalty costs three times more than permanent imprisonment. By using permanent imprisonment instead, we will have more money for law enforcement efforts to solve violent crime and protect our communities. The fact is most murders in California go unsolved and the most killers continue to walk the street. If everyone on death row was condemned to permanent imprisonment, we would have an additional \$100 million to solve more murders and protect our communities.

4. Innocent People are Sent to Death Row in California

Our criminal justice system is failing to deliver on its most fundamental priorities: protecting innocent people while convicting the guilty. In California alone, over 200 innocent men and women have been convicted for crimes they did not commit; 6 of them had been sentenced to execution. More than 100 innocent people have been freed from death rows nationwide, and there is strong evidence to suggest at least 3 innocent men have been executed in recent years. As long as we continue to have a death penalty, we will risk making the ultimate mistake.

5. California's Death Penalty is Unfair and Unjust

Our criminal justice system should treat all people equally, regardless of how much money they make, where they live, or the color of their skin. But California's death penalty is applied unfairly and for the wrong reasons. Poor people who cannot afford a good lawyer are much more likely to be sentenced to execution. Someone whose victim is white is three times more likely to be sentenced to execution than someone whose victim is African-American, and four times more likely than people whose victim is Latino. If the government cannot be trusted to deliver justice fairly and equally, then it cannot be entrusted with the ultimate decision of who lives and who dies.



www.aclunc.org/deathpenalty

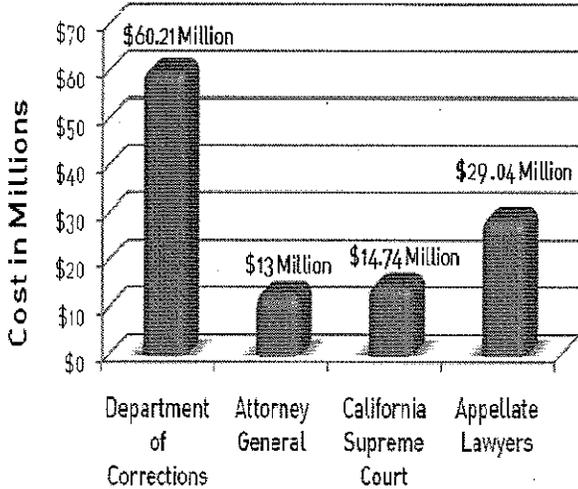
The Death Penalty is Killing California's Budget

State level costs to keep inmates on death row

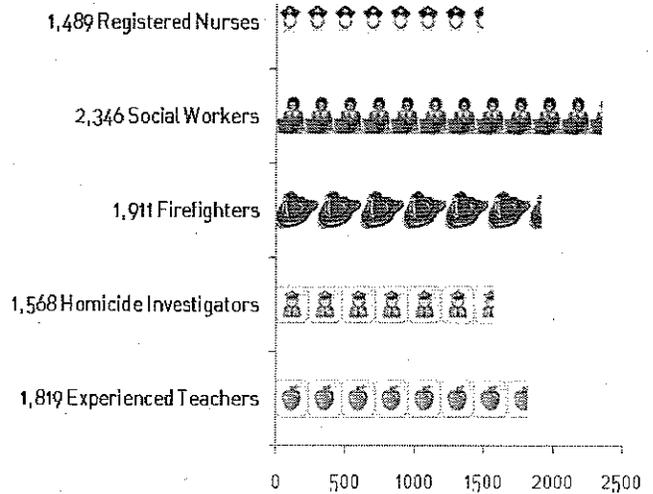
Average **\$175,000 extra** for each inmate, 669 total inmates.

State Price Tag
\$117 Million

How we spend \$117 Million



How we *could* spend \$117 Million



County level costs for death penalty trials

Minimum **\$1.1 million** more than a trial seeking permanent imprisonment, average 20 trials per year.

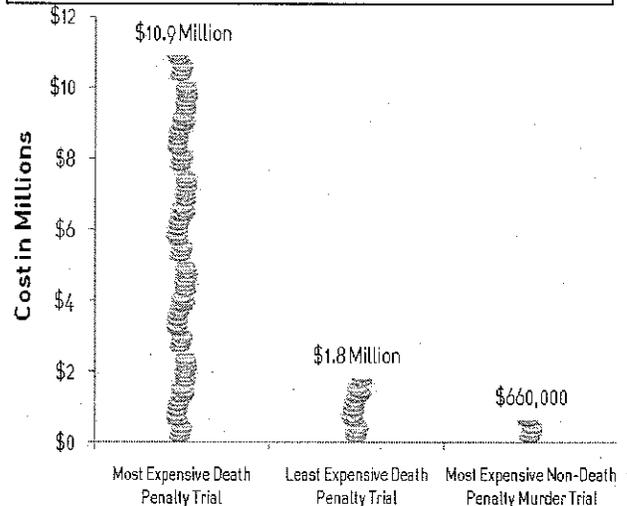
County Price Tag
\$22 Million

Counties are not currently required to keep records of how much they spend on all trials.

Of the records that are available, the difference between the least expensive death penalty trial and most expensive non-death penalty murder trial is **\$1.1 million**.

One death penalty trial cost California taxpayers **\$10.9 million**.

Trial Costs



Total death penalty costs

At least **\$137 Million** above and beyond what permanent imprisonment would cost.

Total Price Tag
\$137 Million