

County board to deal with jail issues

By Seth Nidever

Jail overcrowding will take the forefront at Tuesday's Kings County Board of Supervisors meeting, with county leaders expected to approve an electronic inmate-monitoring program and apply for state money to build new jail space.

The county has long faced jail overcrowding, and it's been made worse recently by the state's plan to shift low-level offenders from state prisons to county jails. The conditions often lead to an early release for inmates.

Supervisors will consider whether to approve an agreement with a company called Satellite Tracking of People that uses radio and GPS to supervise offenders through electronic monitoring. The offenders participating in the program would be both people being held before sentencing and people already sentenced for crimes.

Supervisors will also consider pushing forward with an application to increase jail funding. The estimated cost of \$33 million to build new capacity could be paid for through AB 900, the Public Safety and Offender Rehabilitation Services Act that became law in 2007. To qualify, supervisors would have to spend \$20,000 on an updated study of the overcrowding situation and what's needed to fix it.

In other business, supervisors are expected to approve a tough medical marijuana ordinance that bans outdoor grows and makes dispensaries illegal. Under the rule, qualified individuals would have to grow plants indoors and couldn't form distribution collectives larger than five people.

Supervisors meet at 9 a.m. in the board chambers at the Kings County Government Center.

