

# CALIFORNIA CORRECTIONAL SUPERVISORS ORGANIZATION

**February 17, 2010 - Weekly Update**

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**Sacramento and Orange County Challenge Early Release Law:** The Sacramento County Sheriff's Department is planning to resume early releases of 80 to 100 jail inmates in response to yet another order from a Sacramento judge over the state's new parole reform law. The latest order from Judge Loren McMaster was issued, Wednesday, February 17<sup>th</sup>, and essentially throws out his orders from last week that temporarily put a halt to county jail inmate releases.

The judge wrote in his latest order that he was dissolving his temporary restraining order against early releases because the inmates themselves had a right to be heard on the matter.

"He really unrung the bell," Sacramento Sheriff John McGinness said of the latest order.

The result was a decision by McGinness that he had no legal recourse but to resume releasing inmates who had received credits for good behavior. About 200 inmates were released earlier this month until a suit by the Sacramento County Deputy Sheriffs' Association challenged the releases and McMaster issued an order temporarily halting the releases.

In addition, Orange County followed Sacramento's lawsuit and filed their own, aiming to stop local releases. If the lawsuits filed by deputies' unions in Sacramento and Orange County are successful, they could halt the early release of county inmates under the new law entirely.

The Association of Orange County Sheriffs Deputies have hired the Law Offices of Mastagni, Hostedt, Amick, Miller & Johnsen, the same firm that filed suit in Sacramento, and have made many of the same arguments, citing recent cuts to the department's staff and the threat to the public's safety. Attorneys representing the union also argue that the state law, which went into effect Jan. 25, was meant to affect state prisons only, not county jails.

Law enforcement officials across the state have opposed this new law called SBX318.

County law enforcement associations are uniting, as the California State Sheriffs' Association is working towards a legislative fix to the law to stop early releases at the county level. These unions at the county levels have come together to stop early releases because it has and will continue to result in public safety problems and additional layoffs.

CCSO stands by the county's position and believes inmate reduction through early release, at the state level, is also going to lead to a threat to the public safety and may result in additional layoffs.

**T A K E C A R E A N D B E S A F E !**