

California Correctional Supervisors Organization, Inc.

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“Supervisors Representing Supervisors”

WEEKLY UPDATE -FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2006

By: Pat Le Sage, Chief Operations & Financial Officer

CDCR Undersecretary Woodford Supports Governor’s Strategic Growth Plan:

Calling the Governor’s Strategic Growth Plan “critical to the safety and welfare of California’s citizens, our staff and the inmates who are sentenced and receive services” from prisons and jails, Jeanne Woodford, Undersecretary for the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR), spoke Thursday, February 16th at an informational hearing held by the Senate Committee on Public Safety.

Woodford testified that public policy makers, such as legislators, law enforcement and other key constituencies, must plan adequately for the future by taking the necessary steps to expand the capacity of California prisons and jails. “As has been expressed many times during the last several decades, the public demands that our cities and communities be kept safe by removing violent criminals from our streets,” Woodford said. “It is one of our responsibilities to ensure that California has the necessary capacity to house those offenders who create an unsafe environment.”

With California’s prison population at an all-time high and growing, the 33 existing institutions are running out of space. Woodford estimated that the prison population will be close to 200,000 by 2020, but cautioned that the projections are very conservative, reflecting an annual growth rate of 1.2 percent over 14 years. The prison population, however, increased 2.4 percent in 2005. “It is not enough to just build capacity, but we must be smart about how we plan,” Woodford stressed. She emphasized that the Governor’s plan will provide partnerships between counties and the State. County jails built under the plan would provide additional capacity dedicated to housing state prison inmates. These partnerships will address the more than 5,000 inmates who typically spend fewer than 90 days in prison as well as about 62,000 parole violators or parolees pending revocation.

The Governor’s plan proposes that inmates be returned to county jail for the last 90 days of their sentence. While there, they would be provided with re-entry planning and services prior to release. “The most critical time for inmates leaving prison is from the time of release through the first six months,” Woodford said. By focusing efforts at this critical time, it would increase the likelihood that parolees will not re-offend and will prevent additional victimization of citizens.

Woodford stressed that the Governor’s plan provides an essential public policy model for California by providing a more cost-effective model for housing inmates in the short-term, by providing greater collaboration between county and state law enforcement agencies, and by providing the framework for an effective re-entry model. In addition to providing the county-state partnership, the increased jail and prison capacity would free more prison space and allow the expansion of rehabilitation programs.

SCC Riot:

Monday, February 13th a SCC inmate was hospitalized and 27 other inmates were injured when a riot broke out at 10:00 a.m. in the medium-security Tuolumne Unit yard. The riot between

Black and Hispanic inmates began over a “disrespect issue.” An inmate, was taken to the hospital after he received burns from falling on a tear gas canister. A sergeant on duty saw the inmate’s shirt burning and ran to help him. The sergeant was treated by prison medical staff, but was not seriously injured.

PBSP Obtain Employee’s Personal Information:

Inmates at PBSP gained access to personal information about employees, including their social security numbers, birth dates, and pension account information. CDCR spokeswoman Elaine Jennings said the department was investigating but, “At this time, very preliminary reports indicate that none of the information got outside of the institution.”

Chapter Elections for Chapters 17~36:

The Chapter elections for Chapters 17 through 36 have been completed. We are happy to announce all but three Chapter Presidents were re-elected. CCSO welcomes in three new Presidents they are: Corcoran Chapter #21 Anthony Morrison, SAC Chapter #28 Thomas Brown, and CVSP Chapter 33 William Wright.

A big congratulations to all newly elected and re-elected Chapter Board officials and to the candidates who ran but were not elected. We thank you for participating and urge your continued support of this organization. We believe that all CCSO members are winners. Letters will be going out to institutional Wardens and CCSO members noticing them of the newly elected Chapter officials from Chapters 17 through 36 this week and next week.

Thank You and Farewell:

On behalf of the CCSO State Board, we thank Chapter President of Corcoran Rand Hoyt, Chapter President of SAC Fred Schroeder, and Chapter President of CVSP Daniel Smalls who either chose not to run again or were not re-elected to their Chapter President positions in the latest chapter elections that were just finalized this week. Their past service has been invaluable to CCSO and we encourage them to continue being active members.

We bid a fond farewell to CSATF Chapter 23 President Pamela Dorsey who is resigning from CDCR effective March 1st. She plans to move to Canada where her son lives. We wish Pamela the best of luck and a future less stressful.

CDCR Receives More Inmates:

Hundreds of county jail inmates were transferred to State prisons this week after a series of racially motivated brawls killed two inmates and caused problems in the county jail system this week. It is estimated 600 county inmates have been moved to State prisons.

H.G. Stark Youth Facility:

Wards at Stark assaulted staff at the facility at least seven times during the month of January. A report also cites a brawl where 26 wards attacked 16 officers in a dining facility. Staff believes that wards are organizing to assault staff, thus weakening the control of staff in the institutions. It appears that the new trend toward wards being reformed at the youth facilities need to include the reforms of staff safety.

San Quentin Execution:

Inmate Michael Morales is scheduled for execution on February 21st at San Quentin State Prison. San Quentin State Prison will change its lethal-injection protocol and have on hand two anesthesiologists to make sure condemned inmate Michael Morales remains unconscious during his scheduled execution Tuesday. The decision announced by the State Attorney General’s Office Wednesday evening comes a day after U.S. District Judge Jeremy Fogel of San Jose ruled

that California's lethal-injection process needs slight modification to ensure that inmates being put to death feel no pain.

Female Inmates – Move Closer to Families:

Governor Schwarzenegger's administration plans to move 40% of female inmates out of their cells and into neighborhood private correctional centers that are under contract to the State. 66% of female inmates are security low risk because they are serving time for non-violent crimes. This plan would provide education, job training, drug and alcohol counseling and allow some female inmates to have their children with them.

Currently, State prisons in California are overcrowded with a severe vacancy rate of correctional peace officer staff. This move of 4500 women is projected to free up an entire prison for the overflow of male inmates. The Governor believes this will be a temporary fix until his proposal to build two new prisons with bond money passes. Currently this plan for female convicts is buried in the State Budget.

The plan's first phase will move 500 females into privately run drug treatment programs. This step does not require legislative approval. It is expected to occur this summer. Later in the year, beds from private prisons will bid to house the additional 4000 female inmates who qualify to be housed in a private prison.

This reform, if adopted will make California a leader among states remaking prison systems to reflect differences between the sexes.

Federal Receiver Named for California Prisons:

U.S. District Judge Thelton Henderson named Bob Sillen to the position that will head CDCR's health care powers. CDCR will no longer have control over health care; however, CDCR will still control the mental health, dental and substance abuse treatment services.

Bob Sillen, 63 years old, will retire as the Executive Director of the Santa Clara Valley Health and Hospital System to assume his new role in CDCR. He oversees the county's biggest agency and one of the largest health portfolios of any local government official in California.

DPA Employee Compensation Survey:

On Thursday, February 16th CCSO Administrative Field Services Representative Canutt attended a DPA informational conference concerning an employee compensation survey DPA is conducting. There are 41 benchmark classes of employees that were surveyed and the information will be utilized in the upcoming negotiations with the bargaining units. Though the survey only concerned rank and file positions, the outcome will have some affect on excluded employees. This survey did not include peace officers or firefighter classes, which will be surveyed in the near future.

Legislators Debate Crime:

Assembly Speaker Fabian Nunez, in a heated debate with Assemblyman Todd Spitzer, denounced Spitzer's claim that Democrats such as Assemblyman Mark Leno who leads a "pro criminal" majority and heads the Leno's Public Safety Committee puts "the rights of career criminals over those of law-abiding citizens."

Judge Rules In Favor of CDCR:

Friday, February 10th Superior Court Judge William Pate decided that the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation did not have to seek back wages for prisoners from a company that employed them. The Judge deemed CDCR lacks the authority to file a lawsuit on behalf of Calipatria inmates who were hired to make wire racks. This decision came after a six-year debate over the State's Prison Labor Program.

Welcome New Members:

The State Board and staff, welcome the new members who have joined CCSO this week.

Thought for the Week:

“Good humor is one of the best articles of dress one can wear in society.” – William Makepeace Thackeray

In honor of President’s Day the CCSO Main Office will be

Closed on Monday, February 20th