

CALIFORNIA CORRECTIONAL SUPERVISORS ORGANIZATION

1481 Ullrey Avenue, Escalon, CA 95320 PH: 1-800-449-2940 FAX: (209) 838-6759 INFO. LINE: 888-906-6100

“Supervisors Representing Supervisors”

WEEKLY UPDATE FOR DECEMBER 5, 2008

Budget Update: Paul Curry, the CCSO Legislative Advocate reports his high level of frustration with the way legislators are dealing with the budget crisis. California has a structural deficit – more money spent than available. This state will run out of money by March 2009, and not be able to cover services etc; yet, California legislators are not doing anything about it now. They appear to be waiting until the crisis hits in March.

Paul Curry reports California has a “ton of money” but that the waste and inappropriate spending is causing the shortfall. He said, “The Legislators continue to act like a group of children who are refusing to do their homework.” Both CCSO Legislative Advocates continue to lobby on behalf of CDCR employees.

Escape at CCI: Inmate Jack Gayne, who was working on a truck at CCI, Tehachapi motor pool drove through a fence outside the secure perimeter on December 1st and escaped. Gayne was apprehended that day in Bakersfield. CCI has not had an escape since 1990.

Lt. Parriott, the CCI spokesman and Community Relations Officer did a fantastic job, under difficult working conditions, of noticing neighbors of the prison and contacting area law enforcement agencies. The state keeps cutting funds to CDCR thereby leaving Lt. Parriott with no pager, no cell phone, and no business cards to do his job. However, Lt. Parriott performed exemplary. This is just another example of a job well done by a supervisor not being given proper equipment.

CDCR Policy Inconsistent: On Monday, December 1st, an administrative court found that CDCR discriminated against a Sikh man who applied for a correctional officer job. CDCR had refused to hire Trilochan Oberoi, a devout Sikh, because he would not shave his beard for a gasmask fit test. The court’s decision was based on the inconsistency of the CDCR policy. The court cited that CDCR’s policy mandates that all correctional officer applicants be clean shaven for a gasmask fit test; yet, CDCR approves exceptions to the no beard policy for those already employed.

Release Inmates To Ease Jail Overcrowding: A federal judge said Tuesday, December 2nd that releasing inmates early might be the best remaining option for ensuring that California prisoners receive adequate medical care. A special three-judge panel clearly signaled its willingness to restrict the number of inmates in California prisons. But the judges decided not to make a formal ruling this week. Witnesses representing county district attorneys and probation officers testified that freeing tens of thousands of inmates early would overwhelm county probation and rehabilitation services. State lawmakers have refused to support the \$8 billion plan to build new medical facilities, which was proposed by the court-appointed receiver who oversees inmate medical care. It calls for improving medical and mental health treatment by building space for 10,000 inmates.

Lawmakers say the state can't afford it and already has made money available for prison construction. Appellate Judge Reinhardt said the judges could set a limit for the prison population without directly ordering that inmates be released. "The purposes of a cap would give the state the choice on how to get there," Reinhardt said. Witnesses testifying for the Schwarzenegger administration and for local law enforcement officials opposed the idea of a limit or an early release order.

Take Care and As Always Be Safe!