

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 – JANUARY 9, 2009

Furlough Plan Goes to Court:

A lawsuit filed by the Professional Engineers and the Calif. Association of Professional Scientists which seeks to block the Governor’s executive order, is based on the argument that he needs legislative approval to force furloughs has been accepted to be heard in court. The Judge is Patrick Marlette and will be heard Friday, January 9th. Once the decision is made, CCSO will update our members.

Paul Curry, CCSO Lobbyist Reports: While the Governor is out making hay with talk of furloughs behind the scenes there appears to be other ways to achieve his goal of reducing costs. The current executive order seeks to reduce costs by 10%, which can be done in many different ways by the various state agencies. In talking to a highly placed official of the Governors Office, I learned that if a department or agency could cut the 10% from their operating budgets without furloughs then they would be exempt from the order. CCSO has already sent a letter to the Governor explaining how it would be impossible for correctional staff to take furloughs and still maintain safety for the staff and inmates. Oh, in case you were wondering the legislature is still discussing if they can cut 10% from their operating budget and take the same kinds of pay cuts being asked of all state employees. As someone who has observed the legislature of many years, I would not bet my first born on them taking any kind of cuts.

Prison Reform: Faced with uncontrolled prison costs and a panel of federal judges poised to place a cap on the prison population, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger is proposing to eliminate parole for nonviolent offenders. Doing so, along with additional early-release credits for inmates who complete vocational and education programs would slow the revolving door of parole violators needlessly returned to prison. And that, in turn, would reduce prison crowding and save nearly \$600 million — **the bulk of the 8.7 percent Schwarzenegger plans to cut from the \$9.6 billion CDCR budget.**

Eliminating parole for nonviolent, nonserious and nonsex offenders would align California with most other states. The administration estimates it would more than halve the parole population and cut prison population by 15,000 by June 2010.

Governor Vetoes Budget: The Governor vetoed the Democratic proposed Budget. The veto was based on the fact that there were not enough “deep cuts” to close the \$40 billion budget hole.

Senate leader (D) Darrell Steinberg said after the Governor vetoed the budget that “Schwarzenegger believes that he can convince the Republicans to vote for revenue increases given that we’re now pretty much at the brink.”

Schwarzenegger will meet with GOP leaders to “turn the page” on budget negotiations. The Governor has said that Republicans and Democrats have failed to successfully negotiate a viable budget that will close California’s cash problem. He now will push for his plan to solve the state budget gap, which would:

- Reduce spending by **\$16.5 billion**, with most of the cuts coming in education programs, prisons, and services to the elderly, poor and disabled.

- Increase revenue by **\$14.8 billion**, with most of it coming from a 1.5-cent hike in the sales tax for three years, and borrow \$10.3 billion.
- Create jobs by **relaxing environmental regulations** to accelerate public works projects, mostly connected to highway construction.
- Make state government more efficient by **eliminating or consolidating redundant or unnecessary programs** and agencies.

California's budget problems are touching all our lives. It does not help that legislators are fighting with each other, and that the Governor does not have the support of either party. CCSO continues to lobby in Sacramento on your behalf.

Republicans and Taxpayer Group Sues to Block Proposition 9: Republicans and Taxpayers for Improving Public Safety (TiPS) filed a lawsuit in Sacramento County Superior Court asking for an injunction to prohibit the State of California from enforcing all provisions of the initiative Proposition 9 which was voted into law in the November elections, until lawmakers can provide a legitimate funding source to finance the construction and operational expenses it contains. Prop 9, amends the State Constitution and various state laws to (1) expand the legal right of crime victims and the payment of restitution by criminal offenders, (2) restrict the early release of inmates, and (3) change the procedures for granting and revoking parole. "California is already facing a \$40 billion shortfall over the next 24 months," says Matt Gray, a political consultant for the group. "Budgets are being slashed for public education, social services, public health, and basically everything which invests in our state's future well-being, while the state picks and chooses funding parts of Prop. 9."

According to CDCR more than 32 local jail systems are operating under population caps, and federal judges are threatening to impose an inmate population cap for state prisons due to severe overcrowding. Last year AB 900 passed which called for the sale of \$7.4 billion in lease revenue bonds to build more prison and jail beds. Since then, the state has begun the process to construct new facilities but stalled because it has failed to sell the bonds.

Take Care and As Always Be Safe!