

CALIFORNIA CORRECTIONAL SUPERVISORS ORGANIZATION

August 7, 2009 - Weekly Update

CCSO Supports CCPOA/SEIU: CCSO Supports SEIU and CCPOA regarding their position on the current three-day furloughs for state employees. CCSO will not endorse any illegal actions but do support and are fighting in the courts, and at the capitol to stop the furloughs. CCPOA spokesperson Lance Corcoran said in a press conference that, "He's (Governor) going to have to make a determination: whether we're essential to public safety or we're not." This statement sums up CCSO's position.

The Governor has exempted state firefighters and highway patrol officers from furloughs, yet deems correctional officers as expendable. I guess the state finds it more important to have CHP giving tickets than having inmates securely locked behind bars keeping our communities safe.

State Ordered to Shrink Prison Population by 44,000 Inmates: A panel of three federal judges ordered on August 4th that the state of California reduce its prison population by more than 44,000 inmates in the next two years.

The order, which will not result in the immediate release of any of the state's 160,000 inmates, and will be appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court, the first time the high court, will face such a case.

California's prison system is operating at 190 percent of its design capacity of 84,210 inmates, and the Judges said the state must devise an inmate reduction plan within 45 days unless a stay is ordered to allow an appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court. Governor Schwarzenegger's administration is fighting the court order, saying it is "none of the federal governments business."

"The rights of California's prisoners have repeatedly been ignored," the Judges wrote. "Where the political process has utterly failed to protect the constitutional rights of a minority, the courts can, and must, vindicate those rights."

These Judges may want to protect the constitutional rights of inmates but how about the constitutional rights of law abiding Californians to be ensured safe communities. Law enforcement officials across California are opposing this court-ordered prison reduction claiming it is a public safety issue.

CDCR Secretary Matt Cate said this order would reduce the prison population 137.5% to 110, 000 inmates. He responded at a press conference, "We believe the federal courts are exceeding their authority under the Prison Litigation Reform Act and will continue to fight against a population cap or court-ordered early release. We will appeal to the United States Supreme Court any final ruling that would order the release of 40,000 inmates. The Governor has proposed common sense reforms in collaboration with public safety groups to address overcrowding without early release."

~The next update will be August 21st ~

T a k e C a r e a n d B e S a f e