

# Memorandum

Date : September 27, 2011

To : All CDCR Inmates

Subject: **REVIEW OF SECURITY HOUSING UNIT AND GANG POLICIES**

In May 2011 the Department began the complex process of assessing the policies and procedures associated with the Gang Validation Process, Indeterminate Gang Security Housing Unit (SHU) Program, as well as privileges associated with inmates on Indeterminate SHU status. The purpose of the review is to improve our policies by adopting national standards in gang/disruptive group management. Before commencing this review, the Department received input from internal and external experts, other state and federal correctional systems, inmates, and other stakeholders. While the process of policy review and change will take several more months to implement, much has already been done. In fact, a draft of the new policy should be ready for stakeholder review next month. In addition, several changes have already been made by the Department, including:

## **Short-term Action Items:**

- Authorization of watch caps for purchase and State issue.
- Authorization of wall calendars for purchase in canteen.
- Authorization of exercise equipment in SHU yards (installation of permanent dip/push-up bars is still under review).
- Authorization of annual photographs for disciplinary free inmates.
- Approval of proctors for college examinations.
- Use of California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation's (CDCR) Ombudsman for monitoring and auditing of food services.
- Authorization of sweat pants for purchase/annual package.
- Authorization of Hobby items (colored chalk, pen fillers, and drawing paper).

## **Mid-term Action Items:**

As noted above, the Department is conducting a comprehensive review of SHU policies that includes behavior-based components, increased privileges based upon disciplinary free behavior, a step down process for SHU inmates, and a system that better defines and weighs necessary points in the validation process. The initial policies will be completed shortly and upon Secretary approval will be sent for stakeholder review and comment. Upon receipt of this input, the Department will

initiate any regulation changes in the administrative law process necessary and implement the first major changes to the validation process in the last two decades. Of course this work may be delayed by large-scale inmate disturbances or other emergency circumstances.



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