



# Stop the Closure of the Chuckawalla Valley State Prison



## CONTEXT

The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) has announced a plan to close Chuckawalla Valley State Prison (Chuckawalla) by March 2025. This decision is a part of the CDCR's response to budget cuts outlined in the 2022-23 State budget proposed by Governor Gavin Newsom.



## COMMUNITY WORTH SAVING

The City of Blythe is located in the heart of the desert along California's eastern border and is relatively secluded from other urban areas. It is a rural community with few economic prospects.

**IF CHUCKAWALLA WERE TO CLOSE,  
800+ JOBS AND INCOME SPENT IN  
THE COMMUNITY WOULD BE LOST.**

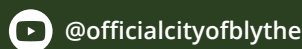
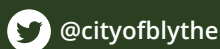
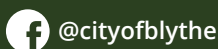
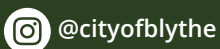
Closing Chuckawalla and relocating inmates would mean the families of inmates would leave Blythe to stay near their loved ones.

Families of prison employees, many of which include Blythe's teachers, public servants, and essential workers, would also have to relocate.

Blythe's local hospital, Palo Verde Hospital, may not be viable if Chuckawalla were to close.

## ADVOCACY

With much at stake, Blythe residents are fighting to make their voices heard. We need your help spreading the word on how Chuckawalla's closure would impact Blythe's community! Join our coalition and help ensure a more promising future for Blythe and its residents!



# A SOUND ALTERNATIVE

The CDCR cited factors such as operating costs, effects on the local workforce, and public safety needs as informing its decision to close Chuckawalla as opposed to other State prisons\*. However, relative to other State prisons, Chuckawalla is less costly, and its closure would have a greater impact on its respective local community's workforce and public safety needs. Goals and considerations motivating the proposed closure of Chuckawalla Valley State Prison would be better addressed through closure of other California prisons. In particular, the California Rehabilitation Center (CRC) in Norco would be a more fitting candidate and both the Cities of Blythe and Norco support that alternative.

## CDCR'S CRITERIA FOR CLOSING PRISONS

	<b>CHUCKAWALLA VALLEY STATE PRISON</b> <i>BLYTHE, CALIFORNIA</i>	<b>CALIFORNIA REHABILITATION CENTER</b> <i>NORCO, CALIFORNIA</i>
<b>Operational Cost Per Inmate**</b>	\$58,101	\$68,250
<b>Repair Costs</b>	\$430 million	\$1.1 billion
<b>Impact on the Surrounding Communities and Workforce</b>	Chuckawalla is the City of Blythe's 2nd largest employer—after Ironwood State Prison.	Norco has a diverse economy that can withstand the prison's closure.
<b>Public Safety</b>	Built in an area that has a zero score for environmental impacts. It is not in a wildfire danger zone or on or near a fault line.	CRC was built between two fault lines making it more difficult for EMS to respond in a natural disaster.
<b>Long-term Investments in State-owned and Operated Correctional Facilities</b>	Chuckawalla was built in 1986 and has been updated with state-of-the-art energy efficiency equipment.	CRC was built in 1928 and was originally intended to be a resort hotel.



[SAVECHUCK.ORG](http://SAVECHUCK.ORG)

\* The CDCR stated that Chuckawalla Valley State Prison was chosen for closure pursuant to criteria set forth by the Legislature in Penal Code Section 2067 in a December 6, 2022 Press Release.

\*\* As indicated by data from the United States Census Bureau

