



CITY OF PALM DESERT

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The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor of the State of California
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Reconsideration of the Closure of Chuckawalla Valley State Prison in Blythe

Dear Governor Newsom:

The City of Palm Desert supports the City of Blythe's request to reconsider the closure of Chuckawalla Valley State Prison (CVSP) due to the disproportionate impact it will have on the economically disadvantaged Palo Verde Valley and Riverside County region. If a prison must be closed, the City of Palm Desert suggests closing the California Rehabilitation Center instead of CVSP to avoid exacerbating the circumstances of already disadvantaged communities.

CVSP is a significant employer in Blythe, with 852 employees, and is also home to many families of incarcerated individuals and prison staff who may struggle to find affordable housing if the prison closes. In addition, Palo Verde College will lose 250 full-time equivalent students, and Palo Verde Hospital will also be affected, potentially resulting in the loss of the community hospital and 115 jobs.

CVSP is a newer facility that recently underwent upgrades and shares resources with neighboring Ironwood State Prison, reducing costs for both institutions. In contrast, older prisons in prime real estate locations, such as San Quentin State Prison and California Men's Colony, require billions of dollars in infrastructure improvements. Therefore, the City of Palm Desert encourages a reassessment of the proposed closure plan and urges the State to involve both Blythe and Norco in discussions about the closure.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Kelly, Mayor
City of Palm Desert

cc: Gregg Wallis, Assembly Member
Steve Padilla, State Senator
Jeff Macomber, CDCR Secretary
Erin Sasse, Cal Cities