



SAVE CHUCKAWALLA

Economic Outlook Conference

April 6, 2023

BACKGROUND

DECEMBER 12, 2022



Chuckawalla Valley State Prison

Chuckawalla Valley State Prison to close in March 2025

“THIS IS HOW A CITY DIES”

La Quinta Councilmember Kathleen Fitzpatrick said of the state's plan. “Blythe is already struggling. ... It's absolutely amazing that the government would do this without even telling and consulting with the community, who elected to have this facility put there when nobody else wanted it.”



WHY WAS CHUCKAWALLA SLATED FOR CLOSURE?

The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation cites Penal Code Section 2067:

1. Prison's cost to operate
2. The impact closure would have on the local workforce
3. Subpopulation and gender specific housing needs
4. Long term investment in State owned and operated facilities.
5. Public safety and rehabilitation
6. Durability of State's solution to overcrowding

...No other reasons for closure have been provided



WHAT'S AT STAKE





CHUCKAWALLA BRINGS BUSINESS AND COMMUNITY TO THE CITY OF BLYTHE

- 800+ JOBS
- FAMILIES
- BUSINESS



THE CLOSURE OF CHUCKAWALLA WOULD HAVE A RIPPLE EFFECT...

BLYTHE'S SOLUTION:

Governor previously announced plan to close prisons:

How does CVSP remain open and allow State to achieve its goals?

- Working with the City of Norco to close The California Rehabilitation Center (CRC) in Norco.
- Working with elected officials
- Building a Coalition of supporters
- Garnering media attention for the Save Chuck campaign
- Proposed a win-win solution for the Cities and Administration

Independent Report agrees:

The People's Plan for Prison Closure:

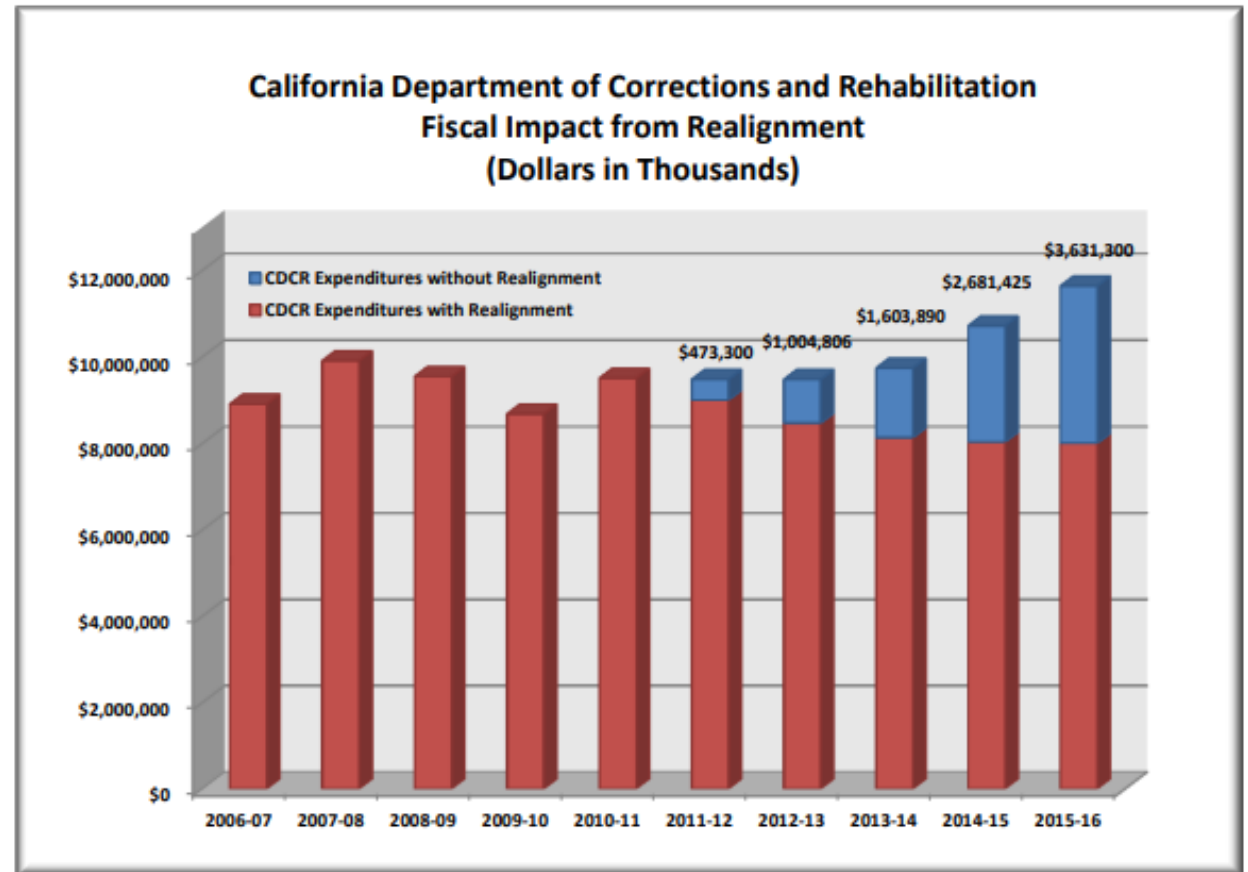
1. California Rehabilitation Center
2. Kern Valley State Prison
3. Pleasant Valley State Prison
4. California Correctional Institution
5. North Kern State Prison
6. California Substance Abuse Treatment Facility
7. California State Prison- Los Angeles County
8. California Medical Facility
9. Avenal State Prison
10. California Men's Colony



The Future of Corrections:

A blueprint to save billions of dollars, end federal oversight and improve the prison System

- Adopted in 2012.
- Proposed closing CRC, one of it's oldest, costliest and inefficient prison facilities to save half a BILLION dollars.



CHUCKAWALLA, BLYTHE



CRC, NORCO



Year Built:	1988	1928
Built as:	Prison	Resort Hotel
Rehabilitative Programs Offered:	24	20
Per Capital Cost to Operate:	\$52,000	\$62,000
Capital Improvement Needs:	\$430 Million	\$1.1 Billion
Investments Made:	Continuous	None since 2012
Redevelopment opportunities	No	Yes

A COMPARISON OF BLYTHE AND NORCO

	<u>City of Blythe</u>	<u>City of Norco</u>
Location:	CA/AZ Border	Inland Empire
Population:	14,000	27,000
Growth Rate:	. 5%	1.32%
Top Employer:	ISP/CVSP	Construction/Health
Median Income:	\$49,235	\$119,459
Median home Price:	\$220,000	\$775,000
Poverty rate:	22.4%	6.76%

Loss of State Jobs in Rural community:

- Why is the Administration taking jobs out of a rural, minority community?
- State jobs being retained in affluent areas
 - *These communities have the resources and economic opportunities to address a prison closure.*
- Blythe has 60% more Hispanic Americans and 3 times the number of Black Americans than Norco.

Is the State's goal in prison closure to keep wealthier communities wealthy while further deteriorating the economic prospects of disadvantaged communities?

Recent Investments at each prison:



CVSP:

- Installation of Solar Panels
- Millions invested in medical facility- Zero Net Energy (ZNE)
- Parking lot retrofit- EV Charging Stations
- ADA compliant “no- step Facility”
- Retrofitted HVAC System for efficiencies



CRC:

Another Look at Penal Code 2067:

- Costs to operate:
 - *CVSP costs less to operate than several other, older prisons.*
 - *CRC alone costs \$20 million more per year to operate than CVSP.*
 - *CRC needs \$1.1 Billion in infrastructure improvements, more than double CVSP.*
- Impacts to workforce: City cannot absorb 850+ living wage jobs
- Subpopulation/Gender needs: CVSP previously designated a Special Needs Prisons and now houses non-designated inmates.
- Public Safety and Rehabilitation:
 - *CVSP offers more Rehabilitation programs than all but 3 other State prisons.*
 - *Prison located in the heart of a desert, virtually in the middle of nowhere.*
- Long Term Investment: State has continued to fund infrastructure improvements at CVSP.

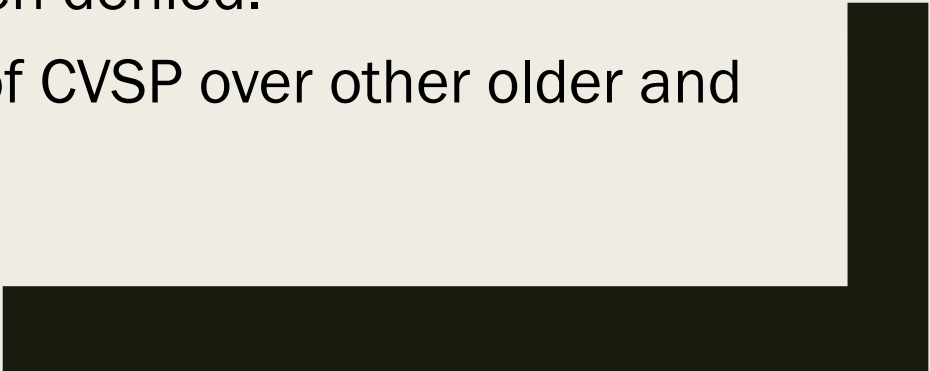


HOW DOES CDCR AND THE ADMINISTRATION JUSTIFY CLOSING CVSP?

They can't, or they won't.

Several requests for Public Information have been denied.

-All denials related to the criteria and selection of CVSP over other older and costlier prisons in the State's system.



Closing CVSP will NOT reduce spending:

- Governor quietly allocated \$20 million to transform San Quentin into California project.
 - *San Quentin, the State's oldest prison built in 1852*
 - 171 years old- Alcatraz originally built in 1859 closed in 1963
 - No special purpose
 - \$1.647 billion needed in infrastructure improvements
 - *If San Quentin closes, where will celebrities visit to meet with elected officials?*
- CSVP cannot be repurposed, State will continue to invest in an empty facility.
- Norco's prison would be redeveloped, helping the State and local economy.
 - *This prison would remain closed and not cost taxpayers.*

HOW YOU CAN HELP

- Visit Savechuck.org
- Register for the Save Chuck Coalition

GAINING SUPPORT FROM OUR REGION

STATE CAPITOL
P.O. BOX 942849
SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0036
(916) 319-2036
FAX (916) 319-2136

DISTRICT OFFICE
48220 JACKSON STREET, SUITE A3
COACHELLA, CA 92236
(760) 347-2360
FAX (760) 347-5704



COMMITTEES
CHAIR: UTILITIES AND ENERGY
BUDGET
COMMUNICATIONS AND CONVEYANCE
GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION
HUMAN SERVICES

03/06/2022

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
State Capitol, First Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Newsom,

We write to you regarding the
Valley State Prison.

We believe that the goals and
would be better addressed if
Rehabilitation Center in Norco

As the California Department
needs of California prisons, it is
to this financial strain. Notably
California Rehabilitation Center
Chuckawalla only requires \$4
Rehabilitation Center, are in
the newer prisons; represent
rehabilitation programs, including
to reduce morbidity, mortality

RIVERSIDE OFFICE:
4080 Lemon Street, 5th Floor
Riverside, CA 92502-1647
(951) 955-1040
Fax (951) 955-2194

County of Riverside



DISTRICT OFFICE/MAILING ADDRESS
73-710 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 222
Palm Desert, CA 92260-2574
(760) 863-8211
Fax (760) 863-8905

SUPERVISOR V. MANUEL PEREZ
FOURTH DISTRICT

February 1, 2023

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor of California
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

Via email: molly.wiltshire@gov.ca.gov

**RE: Support of City of Blythe Concerns Regarding Chuckawalla Valley State Prison
Planned Closure**

Dear Governor Newsom,

I am writing in support of the concerns of the City of Blythe about the California Department
of Corrections & Rehabilitation's December 2022 announcement to begin the process of
closing Chuckawalla Valley State Prison in Blythe, California by March 2025.

I support reducing incarceration and increasing rehabilitation and re-investing back into
community supports and services that prevent crime and fight poverty. I am also deeply
concerned about the very real hardship for the City of Blythe and the Palo Verde Valley that
the closure of this facility would create.



2022-2023 March 27, 2023
DIVISION OFFICERS

President The Honorable Gavin Newsom Governor
Michael Vargas State of California
Mayor, 1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Peris, Sacramento, CA 95814

Division Director Dana Reed
Council Member, Indian Wells
Re: Reconsideration of the Closure of Chuckawalla Valley State Prison in Blythe

Dear Governor Newsom:

1st Vice President Linda Molina
Council Member, Calimesa
The Riverside County Division of the League of California Cities City supports the
City of Blythe in their request that you reconsider the closure of Chuckawalla
Valley State Prison (CVSP), which is located in the City of Blythe. Closing CVSP will
have a disproportionate impact on the City of Blythe, which is one of the most
economically disadvantaged areas in the state and as a result the Riverside

2nd Vice President Jacquie Castillo
Council Member, Corona
County reg
aiding the
closing a pr
Cities supp
Center (CR
Past President Lisa Middleton
Council Member, Palm Springs

In our request
was chosen
of rehabilita
staggering
workforce in
in Blythe, e
Coachella
equivalent
inmate edu
Impacts will
CVSP. Blyth
without insu
without the
in the loss o
which do n
access to h
the loss of a

COACHELLA VALLEY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS

73-710 Fred Waring Dr., Suite 200, Palm Desert, CA 92260 • (760) 346-1127 • www.cvag.org

March 16, 2023

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

Re: Closure of Chuckawalla Valley State Prison in Blythe

Dear Governor Newsom:

As the Executive Director of the Coachella Valley Association of Governments, I write in support of the City of Blythe's
request that you reconsider the closure of Chuckawalla Valley State Prison (CVSP), which is located in the City of Blythe.
Closing CVSP will have devastating negative impacts to the City of Blythe, which is one of the most economically
disadvantaged areas in the state, as well as impacts to the Coachella Valley and eastern Riverside County.

The Coachella Valley Association of Governments is a joint powers authority that is made up of the nine Coachella Valley
cities, the City of Blythe, four local Tribal Nations and the County of Riverside. As a regional government, CVAG plans,
builds and operates projects and programs of regional significance on behalf of its member agencies, to improve the
quality of life of residents and visitors. As such, the closure of the CVSP will have devastating direct social and economic
impacts to the City of Blythe, the Coachella Valley and the broader area of Riverside County.

Blythe is a small, geographically isolated city located in eastern Riverside County on the border between California and
Arizona. Due to their isolated location, many families of incarcerated individuals and prison staff have made Blythe their
home. With the current housing crisis it may be incredibly challenging for these individuals and families to afford
housing in less affordable areas of the State where the prisons remaining open reside. Also, CVSP is a major employer in
Blythe, employing 852 individuals, most of which reside in Blythe and the Coachella Valley. Palo Verde College, located in
Blythe, will lose 250 full time equivalent students due to this closure because the college pioneered an inmate education
program that has since become a statewide program. Impacts will also be felt at Palo Verde Hospital, which routinely
treats patients from CVSP and is the only hospital for 100+ miles.

We strongly urge you reconsider the closure of CVSP and consult with the Cities of Blythe and Norco to arrive a more
inclusive and positive solutions to this matter. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me directly at 760-
346-1147 or at tkirk@cvag.org.

Sincerely,





Phone: 951-736-2371
Fax: 951-736-2493

OFFICE OF: Mayor

400 S. Vicentia Ave, P.O. Box 940, Corona, California 92878-0940
City Hall Online All The Time - <http://www.coronaca.gov>

March 8, 2023

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor
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 Corona supports the City of Blythe in their request that you reconsider the closure of Chuckawalla Valley State Prison (CVSP), which is located in the City of Blythe. Closing CVSP will have a disproportionate impact on the City, which is one of the most economically disadvantaged areas in the state and as a result the entire Riverside County region. We need to be lifting up communities that need assistance, not aiding them in becoming more disadvantaged. If the State is committed to closing a prison facility, the City of Corona further supports the City of Norco in its request to have the California Rehabilitation Center (CRC) shuttered instead of CVSP.

Blythe is a small, geographically isolated city located in eastern Riverside County on the border between California and Arizona. Due to their isolated location, many families of incarcerated individuals and prison staff have made Blythe their home and with the current housing crisis it may be incredibly challenging for these individuals and families to afford housing in less affordable areas of the State where the prisons remaining open are located.



March 8, 2023

The Honorable Gavin Newsom Governor
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 Beaumont supports the City of Blythe in their request that you reconsider the closure of Chuckawalla Valley State Prison (CVSP), which is located in the City of Blythe. Closing CVSP will have a disproportionate impact on the City of Blythe, the Palo Verde Valley which is one of the most economically disadvantaged areas in the state and as a result the Riverside County region. We need to be lifting up communities that need assistance, not aiding them in becoming more disadvantaged. If the State is committed to closing a prison facility, the City of Beaumont further supports the City of Norco in its request to have the California Rehabilitation Center (CRC) shuttered instead of CVSP.

Blythe is a small, geographically isolated city located in eastern Riverside County on the border between California and Arizona. Due to their isolated location, many families of incarcerated individuals and prison staff have made Blythe their home and with the current housing crisis it may be incredibly challenging for these individuals and families to afford housing in less affordable areas of the State where the prisons remaining open are located.

In our request to you for reconsideration, we encourage you to explain why CVSP was chosen for closure when it is one of the new prisons that has a robust offering of rehabilitative programming. Furthermore, the potentially for job loss in the City is staggering and debilitating. CDCR is required to take into consideration workforce impacts when determining prison closures. CVSP is a major employer in Blythe, employing 852 individuals, most of which reside in Blythe and the Coachella Valley. Palo Verde College, located in Blythe, will lose 250 full time equivalent students due to this closure because the college pioneered an inmate education program that has since become a statewide program. Impacts will also be felt at Palo Verde Hospital, which routinely treats patients from CVSP. Blythe has the only hospital for 100+ miles. Most of their residents are without insurance or are on State-subsidized plans. Sustaining

City of Calimesa

908 Park Avenue, Calimesa, California 92320
Telephone 909.795.9801 Facsimile 909.795.4399

www.cityofcalimesa.net

"Preserving and enhancing the open space atmosphere and quality of life in Calimesa"



March 9, 2023

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, 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 Calimesa supports the City of Blythe in their request that you reconsider the closure of Chuckawalla Valley State Prison (CVSP), which is located in the City of Blythe. Closing CVSP will have a disproportionate impact on the City of Blythe, the Palo Verde Valley which is one of the

CCMF (6/30/23)



CITY OF PERRIS
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
MICHAEL M. VARGAS

March 8, 2023

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor 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 Perris supports the City of Blythe in their request that you reconsider the closure of Chuckawalla Valley State Prison (CVSP). Closing CVSP will have a disproportionate impact on the City of Blythe and the Palo Verde Valley, which is one of the most economically challenged areas in the state. We need to be uplifting communities that need assistance, not aiding them in becoming more disadvantaged. If the state is committed to closing a prison facility, the City of Perris further supports the City of Norco in its request to have the California Rehabilitation Center (CRC) shuttered instead of CVSP.



March 13, 2023

The Honorable Gavin Newsom, Governor
State of California
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814
Via email: molly.wiltshire@gov.ca.gov

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

Dear Governor Newsom:

The City of Indian Wells supports the City of Blythe in their request that you reconsider the closure of Chuckawalla Valley State Prison (CVSP), which is located in the City of Blythe. Closing CVSP will have a disproportionate impact on the City of Blythe, the Palo Verde Valley which is one of the most economically disadvantaged areas in the state, and as a result the Riverside County region. We need to be lifting up communities that need assistance, not aiding them in becoming more disadvantaged. If the State is committed to closing a prison facility, the City of Indian Wells further supports the City of Norco in its request to have the California Rehabilitation Center (CRC) shuttered instead of CVSP.



March 13, 2023

The Honorable Gavin Newsom Governor
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 Cathedral City supports the City of Blythe in their request that you reconsider the closure of Chuckawalla Valley State Prison (CVSP), which is located in the City of Blythe. Closing CVSP will have a disproportionate impact on the City of Blythe, the Palo Verde Valley which is one of the most economically disadvantaged areas in the state and as a result the Riverside County region. We need to be lifting up communities that need assistance, not aiding them in becoming more disadvantaged. If the State is committed to closing a prison facility, the City of Cathedral City further supports the City of Norco in its request to have the California Rehabilitation Center (CRC) shuttered instead of CVSP.

Blythe is a small, geographically isolated city located in eastern Riverside County on the border between California and Arizona. Due to their isolated location, many families of incarcerated individuals and prison staff have made Blythe their home and with the current housing crisis it may be incredibly challenging for these individuals and families to afford housing in less affordable areas of the State where the prisons remaining open are located.

In our request to you for reconsideration, we encourage you to explain why CVSP was chosen for closure when it is one of the new prisons that has a robust offering of rehabilitative programming. Furthermore, the potentially for job loss in the City is staggering and debilitating. CDCR is required to take into consideration workforce impacts when determining prison closures. CVSP is a major employer in Blythe, employing 852 individuals, most of which reside in Blythe and the Coachella Valley. Palo Verde College, located in Blythe, will lose 250 full time equivalent students due to this closure because the college pioneered an inmate education program that has since become a statewide program. Impacts will also be felt at Palo Verde Hospital, which routinely treats patients from CVSP. Blythe has the only hospital for 100+ miles. Most of their residents are without insurance or are on State-subsidized plans. Sustaining



March 23, 2023

The Honorable Gavin Newsom, Governor
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 La Quinta supports the City of Blythe in its request that you reconsider the closure of Chuckawalla Valley State Prison (CVSP), in the City of Blythe. Closing CVSP will have a disproportionate impact on the City of Blythe in the Palo Verde Valley which is one of the poorest areas in the State and the Riverside County region.

We need to be lifting communities up that need assistance, not aiding them in becoming more disadvantaged. If the State is committed to closing a prison facility, the City of La Quinta further supports the City of Norco in its request to have the California Rehabilitation Center (CRC) shuttered instead of CVSP.

CRC is nearly a century old. The facility first opened in 1928 as a luxury hotel. In December 1941, President Roosevelt turned the resort into a Naval hospital which permanently closed in June 1957. In 1962, the federal government donated the facility to the State of California to use as a narcotics center. To help ease overcrowding in the 1980s, CRC began housing felons as well as civil narcotic addicts.

A 2015 inspection by the health department found numerous violations, including standing water, cockroach infestations, rodent droppings, wastewater not draining, no hot water in bathroom sinks, and the dishwashers not reaching the temperature required to ensure sanitation. The cost to repair CRC in 2015 was estimated at more than \$1.4 billion.

GENERATING INTEREST FROM MEDIA



'We need to do what's best for our region': Officials iterate CVSP closure issues, 'irreparable damage' concerns

By Uriel Avendano/Times Editor 5 hrs ago

MARKETPLACE
For & Place Classifieds

Desert Sun.

SUBSCRIBE
\$1 for 3 Mo

Sports Business [News] Life Opinion Real Estate Obituaries eNewspaper Legals 60°F

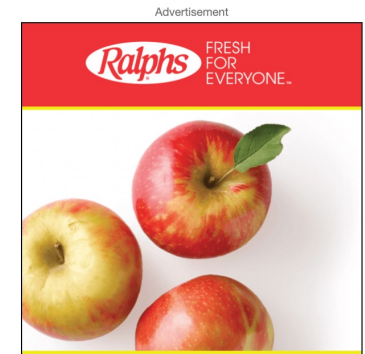
Planned closure of Blythe prison draws protest from leaders in Coachella Valley

Tom Coulter
Palm Springs Desert Sun

Published 4:23 p.m. PT March 24, 2023 | Updated 4:25 p.m. PT March 24, 2023



The Chuckawalla Valley State Prison, shown from above, is set for closure by March 2025, according to the state. But local



THIS WEEK'S CIRCULAR



Archived file photo by Uriel Avendano/Palo Verde Valley Times
Officials and leadership working toward reversing California Gov. Gavin Newsom's decision to close Blythe's Chuckawalla Valley State Prison (CVSP) held a virtual press conference on March 23, 2023, to address issues and concerns with the looming early-2025 closure.
Moderated by City of Blythe Assistant City Manager Mallory Crecellus, officials provided a virtual press conference on March 23, 2023.

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE.... LET'S 'SAVE CHUCK'

SAVE CHUCK
Stop the Closure of the
Chuckawalla Valley State Prison

About Get Involved Media FAQ Contact

Contact Your Representatives

We encourage residents and supporters to communicate comments and concerns related to the proposed closure to your federal or local representatives.

Send a Message to Governor Newsom & Your Legislator

Dear Governor Newsom and Legislators,

I am writing to urge you to reconsider the closure of Chuckawalla Valley State Prison in Blythe, California as proposed in your 2022-23 State budget.

Chuckawalla Valley State Prison plays a central role in the City of Blythe's economy. As one of Blythe's top employers, the prison supplies over 850 jobs, and is the main reason many residents make the City of Blythe their home. Blythe offers a low cost of living for full-time residents as well as families of the incarcerated. If inmates are forced to move, their families could face costly housing increases or even homelessness. Families of prison employees, many of which include Blythe's teachers, public servants, and essential workers, would also have to relocate.

Additionally, Blythe residents would feel the impacts of the closure through a noticeable decline in the services the City would be able to provide to address business closures, loss of related jobs in sites such as school districts and decreased sales and property taxes from residents migrating out of the city.

Currently, 33% of Blythe's population lives in poverty (Census 2021) and the California State Auditor Dashboard ranked Blythe as one of the Distressed Cities in the state which make 70 California



Senator Steve Padilla



Assemblymember Eduardo Garcia (36th District)



COMMUNITY LEADER TRAINING

April 19, 2023

Comfort Suites Blythe

5PM – 7PM