



# City of Temecula

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August 22, 2023

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

Dear Governor Newsom:

The City of Temecula is writing to urge you to reconsider the closure of Chuckawalla Valley State Prison in Blythe, California as proposed in your previous State budget. Chuckawalla Valley State Prison plays a central role in the region's economy. As a top employer in Blythe, the prison supplies over 850 jobs. Blythe and the surrounding region offer a low cost of living for full-time residents as well as families of the incarcerated. If inmates are forced to move, families could face costly housing increases. Families of prison employees, many of which include teachers, public servants, and essential workers, would also have to relocate. Regional residents would feel the impacts of the closure through a noticeable decline in services, business closures, related job losses in school districts, and decreased sales and property taxes.

An alternative proposition to the closing of Chuckawalla is the closure of California Rehabilitation Center in Norco. Community leaders in Blythe are enthusiastic supporters of their local prison. This is in direct contrast to Norco residents who have been advocating for the closure of the California Rehabilitation Center for years. As a comparatively expensive prison located in an area where prison closure would not have a significant effect on the local economy, the movement to save Chuckawalla Valley State Prison advocates closure of the CRC in lieu of Chuckawalla.

By reconsidering, you would be supporting a diverse coalition of residents, organizations, and legislators united around the mission to 'Save Chuck'. You can learn more about this effort at [SaveChuck.org](http://SaveChuck.org).

Sincerely,

Zak Schwank  
Mayor

CC: The Honorable Members, Assembly/Senate Budget Committee  
The Honorable Kelly Seyarto, Member, California State Senate  
The Honorable Kate Sanchez, Member, California State Assembly  
Townsend Public Affairs