Overview of 2017-18 Corrections Budget

Governor Brown’s proposed budget brings state spending on corrections to $13.8 billion, up more than $500 million from last year (2016-17). However, the budget also projects the adult prison population will fall by 0.7%, thanks in large part to the voter-mandated criminal justice reforms passed in Proposition 57. In spite of these much needed reductions in the state prison population, the Governor’s proposed budget increases spending on corrections, including: $11 billion for the CDCR, an increase of $500 million from last year; nearly $1.3 billion for local community corrections, an increase of $1.5 million from last year; and maintains $490 million to support local law enforcement. The proposed budget does include a marked decrease in funding for the BSCC, allocating $57 million to the agency, far less than the $165 million allocated last year.

Since 2013, the state prison system has gone from 150% of design capacity down to 134%. Yet spending within the CDCR budget has grown steadily every year, from $8.9 billion (2012-2013) to this coming year’s proposed $11 billion. Additionally, the critical infrastructure deficiencies section suggests a need to assess the 12 oldest prisons in California, as well as two youth institutions that were all built in the 1960s. The budget also suggests the need to “modernize facilities” to address the high population of people CDCR considers as medium or high security. This budget also prioritizes the opening up of a new type of facility called the California Leadership Academy. CURB maintains its opposition to any and all forms of prison construction.

Population Reduction:

- **Implementation of Prop. 57 (October 2017):** $5.7 million with an estimated net savings of $22.4 million and population reduction of 2,000 (2017-18), growing to net savings of approximately $140 million and a reduction of 9,500 prisoners (2020-21).
  - Parole Eligibility for non-violent offenses serving their full term for their primary offense: Projected to reduce the average daily adult prisoner population by an estimated 524 (2017-18)
  - Credit Earnings: Projected to reduce the average daily adult prisoner population by 1,354 (2017-18)
  - Milestone Credit Earning Expansion: Broaden expansion of credit earning programs to impact a larger group of the prison population with the exception of those with Life Without the Possibility of Parole terms and Condemned persons. As well as, expand credits from 6 weeks per year to 12 weeks. Enhanced milestone credits for one-time significant earned academic and vocational achievements. Credits earned by life-term prisoner will be credited towards their Minimum Eligible Parole Date.

Construction and Facility Changes:

- **California Leadership Academy:** New prison facility that is being proposed as a “college-like campus” with 250 beds for young men. Budget states the project will use public and private funds.
- **Ashker v. Brown:** Reducing solitary confinement in two prisons by 992 segregated housing beds. Budget proposes to convert the beds at Pelican Bay to level II housing and the beds at Corcoran to level IV housing.
- **Transfer Psychiatric Programs from Dept of State Hospitals to CDCR:** $250.4 million to redirect over 1,100 in-patient, mental-health treatment beds to three California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation prisons (California Health Care Facility in Stockton, Salinas Valley State Prison in Soledad, and California Medical Facility in Vacaville)
- **Out of State Facilities:** Implementation of Proposition 57 and other population reduction measures will allow CDCR to remove all prisoners from one of two remaining out-of-state facilities in 2017-18. Anticipates returning all 4,900 prisoners by 2020.
- **Division of Rehabilitative Programs:** $440 million for:
  - Six-month transitional housing: Develop a 300-bed program in locations closest to the communities in which life-term prisoners will be released
  - Community Reentry Program: A continued partnership with CDCR to increase the amount of contracts to house 647 people in 2017-18.
• **Incompetent to Stand Trial: Admissions Center**: $10.8 million General Fund to establish a 60-bed Admission, Evaluation, and Stabilization Center for the assessment and treatment of ISTs.

**Additional Budget Changes:**

- **Prop. 47 Impact**: Department of Finance currently estimates net savings of $42.9 million when comparing 2016-17 to 2013-14, an increase of $3.5 million over the estimated savings in 2015-16.
- **Video Surveillance Pilot Program**: $11.7 million General Fund to implement a video surveillance pilot program at High Desert State Prison and Central California Women’s Facility.
- **Community Corrections Performance Incentive Grant (SB 678)**: $114.9 million to continue this program, which provides incentives for counties to reduce the number of felony probationers sent to state prison.

*For more information go to curbprisonspending.org or email info@curbprisonspending.org.*