County of Los Angeles
Sheriff's Department Headquarters
4700 Ramona Boulevard
Monterey Park, California 91754-2169

LEROY D. BACA, SHERIFF

March 21, 2006

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Supervisors:

INTENT TO CANCEL SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT'S STATE PRISONER HOUSING CONTRACT WITH CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

On February 21, 2006, your Board directed the Chief Administrative Officer and County Counsel to assist with the rapid termination of the Sheriff's Department's State Prisoner Housing contract with the California Department of Corrections (CDC). Verbal notification to the State was made, and CDC officials were advised that written confirmation of the County's intent to cancel the contract would be forthcoming.

The formal cancellation letter has been prepared for the Sheriff's review and signature upon his return to the office on March 27, 2006.

If you have any questions, please call me at (323) 526-5115.

Sincerely,

LEROY D. BACA, SHERIFF

Larry L Waldie

LARRY L. WALDIE
UNDERSHERIFF

County of Los Angeles
Sheriff's Department Headquarters
4700 Ramona Boulevard
Monterey Park, California 91754-2169

LEROY D. BACA, SHERIFF

March 21, 2006

Mr. David E. Janssen
Chief Administrative Officer
713 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Mr. Janssen:

SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT'S
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
PITCHESS DETENTION CENTER CONTRACT

The Board motion of February 21, 2006, contained an amendment directing the Sheriff's Department (Department) and Chief Administrative Office to provide a status report on what effect the termination of the PDC (Pitchess Detention Center) contract with the State would have on custody operations. The following is our brief analysis of the effects of terminating the contract.

Of our 20,000 inmate beds, a maximum of only 1,292 (6.5 percent) are available for contract parole violators. Currently, the actual number of contract parole violators in our jails is significantly less, mostly because the California Department of Corrections, in cooperation with the Department and in response to the unstable jail climate, has since accepted custody of many of the contract parole violators. This creates a revenue shortfall, which must be absorbed by the Department in order to balance its budget.

If the contract is terminated, the Department is faced with two options:

- The vacated beds remain in use, thereby allowing some of the sentenced inmates currently being released on percentage time to remain in custody and serve a longer portion of their sentence. In order for the Department to accomplish this, the County would need to backfill the loss of revenue.

- The beds remain vacant and personnel are redeployed. However, the 1,292 jail beds available for contract parole violators are co-mingled among the general jail population. Simply stated, we do not house the State inmates in one isolated

area. Vacating those beds to realize a gain in staffing would require a consolidation of those beds and the closure of a complete floor, compound, or building.

When examining security and safety considerations, there is no evidence to suggest that the State contract parole violators are more or less violent than county inmates in general. Furthermore, terminating the contract would not stop parole violators from being arrested and housed in the county jail as mandated by law.

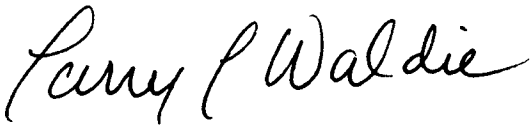
The Department houses all non-contract parole violators under "local assistance," which is reimbursed by the State at the same rate as the contract. Reimbursement via local assistance is not encumbered in the State budget; therefore, reimbursement is often delayed or suspended – dependent upon the availability of State funds. However, under the existing contract, funding is encumbered in the State's annual Budget Act, which allows for timely payment to our Department.

The termination of the contract would result in a loss of approximately $27 million in revenue to the Department.

Should you have any questions, please contact me at (323) 526-5115 or Assistant Sheriff Paul K. Tanaka at (323) 526-5065.

Sincerely,

LEROY D. BACA, SHERIFF



LARRY L. WALDIE
UNDERSHERIFF