



LEROY D. BACA, SHERIFF

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



February 24, 2012

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

Dear Supervisors:

**REPORT BACK FROM THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT
REGARDING THE FEASIBILITY OF CONTRACTING WITH COMMUNITY
CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES FOR THE HOUSING
OF SENTENCED, COUNTY INMATES**

On January 21, 2012, your Board requested that the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department report back on the feasibility of contracting with the Community Correctional Facilities (CCF) for the purpose of housing sentenced, county inmates.

Please find attached an executive briefing containing background on the CCF's pricing and other logistical information. Should you have any questions regarding the feasibility of CCF's, please contact Assistant Sheriff Cecil W. Rhambo Jr., at (323) 526-5065.

Sincerely,

LEROY D. BACA
SHERIFF

FEASIBILITY OF CONTRACTING WITH COMMUNITY CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES – SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

BACKGROUND

The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) began contracting with private and public Community Correctional Facilities (CCFs) approximately 20 years ago, in an effort to curb overcrowding at State institutions. CDCR's contracts with all of these facilities have been cancelled due to State realignment under Assembly Bills 109 and 117.

Provisions in these assembly bills allow counties to contract with publicly operated CCFs, but preclude counties from contracting with private facilities. There are four publicly operated facilities located in close proximity to Los Angeles County (County): The cities of Shafter, Taft, Delano, and Coalinga (Claremont Facility), previously operated CCFs under contract with CDCR.

SHAFTER AND TAFT

The Shafter and Taft facilities were constructed by the same contractor and have very similar layouts. Both municipalities have sought guidance from the Corrections Standards Authority (CSA) to ensure compliance with Title 15 and 24 as a Type III facility. Each facility has been given a preliminary rated capacity of 512 beds each. The CSA requested each facility make slight modifications to their respective physical plants to comply with Title 15/24 standards. Both facilities are in the process of completing those modifications.

Shafter and Taft utilize a dormitory configuration of approximately 64 bunks in each housing location with very spacious dayroom areas. The facilities have multiple classrooms, computer labs, dedicated medical areas, and cells to house inmates who have committed minor disciplinary infractions.

Each facility offered vocational and educational programming to CDCR inmates and will continue those programs if under contract with the County. Each facility maintained work crews throughout the cities of Taft and Shafter to perform a wide variety of cleanup and maintenance duties. Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (Department) personnel have visited the Shafter and Taft facilities and both are in "turnkey" condition and have personnel on site committed to maintaining this status while closed.

Administrators at both facilities have stated they are capable of opening at least half of their facilities within 60-90 days of contract negotiations.

CLAREMONT (COALINGA) AND DELANO

The Claremont and Delano facilities are of identical design, utilizing two-tier dormitory style housing. The dorm configuration is similar in design to the Department's North County Correctional Facility. The dorms vary in size and like the Shafter and Taft facilities, offer large dayrooms. The facilities have not yet been inspected and rated by CSA; however, it is anticipated they will be rated for approximately 390-500 inmates.

Department personnel visited the Delano facility several months ago and deemed the facility to be in neglect and its overall condition unacceptable. The city has stated it has spent approximately \$60,000 in renovations since closing in hopes of gaining a county contract and has personnel on-site maintaining the building. Department officials revisited the site again on February 21, 2012, and saw considerable improvement in the facility's condition. While some physical plant modifications must still be made, it is the Department's belief that the city is capable of making the facility acceptable for County inmates in 60-90 days. CSA is scheduled to conduct a preliminary inspection of the facility on March 8, 2012.

The Claremont facility was also toured on February 21, 2012, and found to be in good condition. Minor cleaning and touch-up painting is necessary to bring the facility in line with the Shafter and Taft facilities.

INMATE DAILY RATES

Each of the four municipalities was asked to submit informal proposals to determine a range of daily inmate rates. The cities were provided four scenarios with varying degrees of meal service, inmate medical care, along with education, and vocational options. The rates submitted ranged from \$56 per day for basic services to \$66 per day for more advanced medical care and programming, similar to what the Department provides now. Each of the submitted rates included liability.

All rates include inmate meals and as the rate increases, various medical options and educational opportunities were made available. The \$66 rate includes two hot meals and a sack lunch, General Educational Development classes, computer lab, English as a Second Language classes, and a variety of vocational programming. Additionally, the \$66 rate includes a 24-hour nurse, medical doctor, dental, and minor hospitalization, up to \$20,000 per inmate episode. The example given for the latter would be standard care necessary to perform treatment for an appendicitis or similar procedure.

According to the most recent daily maintenance rates provided by the County's Auditor-Controller's office and confirmed by the Department's Administrative Services Division, the all-inclusive cost for housing an inmate in the Department's custody is \$112.84 per day, including overhead and liability.

INMATE CLASSIFICATION

A number of factors need to be considered to maximize the benefit from an agreement with these municipalities. Based on the Department's evaluation, the best scenario is to house low to medium security inmates sentenced to the longest terms. Ideally, the N3 population is best suited for this arrangement.

Administrators of the CCFs have told us they worked together while under contract with CDCR to manage minor inmate disciplinary issues and assured a suitable housing environment by making harmony transfers amongst the facilities.

TRANSPORTATION

Currently, the Department transports inmates to State prisons within a short distance from these facilities. According to our Correctional Services Transportation staff, the Statewide runs have dropped slightly due to AB109 and re-directing or making additional stops at the CCFs would not significantly impact the operations or overall cost.

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

Sunset Date—Penal Code 4115.55 authorizes the Sheriff to contract with a CCF; however, it also states the law is repealed on January 2015. CCF administrators are working with Senator Michael Rubio's office to amend this section to either allow contracts to continue with no sunset date or to include an exception to those already under contract.

LITIGATION

There is no legal action pending against any of the four CCFs. Shafter officials have stated that in the 21 years of operation, three claims were filed by inmates. There is no indication from CDCR's legal counsel or from the other municipalities of legal action against the facilities in Taft, Delano or Coalinga.

Claremont Custody Center (CCC)

185 West Gale
Coalinga, CA 93210
Fresno County
(559) 935-0851

Claremont Custody Center (CCC) closed effective August 7, 2011.

CAPACITY: 390-500 (pending CSA inspection)

STAFF: Approximately 90 sworn/professional staff; sworn staff per 830.55 PC

EDUCATION: GED, ESL, computer lab, vocational provided by West Hills Community College

VIDEO SURVEILLANCE: Digital/recorded. Dormitories, recreation yard and common areas

MEDICAL: 24-hour nurse; 40-hour medical doctor; dental; pharmacy; minor hospitalization

DISTANCE: 201 miles from L.A. basin; 163 miles from PDC

Delano Community Correctional Facility (DCCF)

P.O. Box 1060
2727 West Industry Way
Delano, CA 93216
Kern County
(661) 721-3270

Delano Community Correctional Facility (DCCF) closed effective August 21, 2011.

CAPACITY: 390-500 (pending CSA inspection)

STAFF: Approximately 78-90 sworn/professional staff; sworn staff per 830.55 PC

EDUCATION: GED, ESL, computer lab, vocational provided by Taft Community College District

VIDEO SURVEILLANCE: Minimal coverage; Department would require under contract digital/recorded; dormitories, recreation yard and common areas

MEDICAL: 24-hour nurse; medical doctor; dental; pharmacy;

DISTANCE: 142 miles from L.A. basin; 105 miles from PDC

Shafter Community Correctional Facility (SCCF)

1150 East Ash Avenue
Shafter, CA 93263
Kern County
(661) 746-8900

Shafter Community Correctional Facility (SCCF) closed effective November 30, 2011.

CAPACITY: 512

STAFF: Approximately 78 sworn/professional staff; sworn staff per 830.55 PC

EDUCATION: GED, ESL, computer lab, vocational provided by city of Shafter employees

VIDEO SURVEILLANCE: Digital/recorded. Dormitories, recreation yard and common areas

MEDICAL: 24-hour nurse; medical doctor; pharmacy

DISTANCE: 129 miles from L.A. basin; 91 miles from PDC

Taft Community Correctional Facility (TCCF)

330 Commerce Way

Taft, CA 93268

Kern County

(661) 765-2840

Taft Community Correctional Facility (TCCF) closed effective November 30, 2011

CAPACITY: 512

STAFF: Approximately 78-90 sworn/professional staff; sworn staff per 830.55 PC

EDUCATION: GED, ESL, computer lab, vocational provided by Taft Community College

VIDEO SURVEILLANCE: Digital/recorded. Dormitories, recreation yard and common areas

MEDICAL: 24-hour nurse; medical doctor; pharmacy

DISTANCE: 119 miles from L.A. basin; 82 miles from PDC