Overview of 2019-20 Proposed Corrections Budget

Californians United for a Responsible Budget (CURB) is a statewide coalition of organizations working to reduce the number of people imprisoned in California and the number of prison and jail beds in the state.

Governor Newsom's proposed budget for corrections has increased to $12.6 billion, up $500 million from last year (2018-19) including: $12.3 billion for the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR); nearly $1.5 billion for local community corrections, a wasteful increase from last year; approximately $117 million to the Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC), down almost $2 million from the amount allocated to the agency last year. The total general fund for Corrections has reached $15.5 billion, almost as much as allocated for Higher Education, $17.9 billion. While increased accessibility, positive programming, and the opportunity to earn more credits towards early parole along with reentry services is necessary, there is still an urgent need to shift public safety spending to increase supportive social services including education. More aggressive, retroactive parole and sentencing reform will allow necessary prison closures and increased investment in community.

Since 2013, the state prison system has gone from 150% of design capacity to just below the court-ordered cap of 137.5%. Yet spending within the overall corrections budget has grown steadily every year, from $8.9 billion (2012-2013) to this coming year's proposed $12.6 billion. Last year's budget prioritized $3.8 million for two "Young Adult Pilot Program" housing units to divert young adult prisoners from the adult system. Although the budget anticipates an increase the youth incarcerated population, up to 759 wards from 646 wards in 2018-19 due to the implementation of the YAP, Governor Newsom proposes to move the Division of Juvenile Justice out of the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. Newsom aims to address the trauma that causes crisis leading to youth incarceration as a solution to ending youth imprisonment. CURB believes that our youth should be protected from moving into adult correctional facilities and we advocate for state funding to shift, increasing the capacity of community-based diversion programs and services instead of programs that increase state capacity for prison structures. CURB maintains its opposition to any and all forms of prison construction and hope that the state will stand with us.

Population Reduction:

- **Implementation of Prop. 57:** Estimated $24.7 million to the General Fund in 2019-20 and population reduction of nearly 6,300 in 2019-20, growing to reduction in the prison population of approximately 10,500 in 2021-22.
    - The average daily population of people on parole is projected to increase by 166 in 2018-19 and 1,410 in 2019-20, for totals of 48,701 and 49,945, respectively.
    - $475.3 million General Fund specifically for the Division of Rehabilitative Programs.
    - $5.5 million for literacy programs specifically aimed at improving literacy rates among the prison population.
    - **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 by June 2019 instead of January 2019 as projected in the 2018 Budget Act. Anticipates returning all prisoners by 2020-21. Continued decarceration policies have ended out of state prison contracts, opening up the opportunity to arrange prison closures, beginning with Pelican Bay.

Construction and Facility Changes: CURB is happy to see no additional jail construction dollars in this years budget on top of the $1.3 billion for county jail construction proposals in 30 counties that was already approved in the past few years. Instead we see allocations for minor tweaks and upgrades to facilities. An increase of $8.3 million is projected in the general fund in 2019-20 for the Young Adult Program, although changes in the Division of Juvenile Justice may alter these projections.

- **Young Adult Program:** Population is projected to increase by 113 in 2019-20, for totals 759 wards. The increase in 2019-20 is driven by policy changes that were not incorporated in the prior projection, including the activation of the new Young Adult Program, raising the age of jurisdiction for juvenile court commitments from 23 to 25, and raising the age of confinement for adult court commitments from 21 to 25.
- **Annual prison maintenance and repair costs**: General Fund augmentations of $18.5 million in 2019-20, $37.1 million in 2020-21, and $55.6 million in 2021-22 and ongoing to establish a new funding methodology and increase the baseline budget.
- **Roof replacement projects:** at High Desert State Prison and California State Prison, Solano up to $71.7 million General Fund over two years.
- **Replace fire alarm and repair fire suppression systems:** $59 million General Fund over two years to at Mule Creek State Prison, R.J. Donovan Correctional Facility, and California State Prison, Sacramento.
- **Accessibility improvements:** $8.4 million General Fund over two years to fund accessibility improvements at the California Institution for Women and Mule Creek State Prison.

Additional Budget Changes:

- **California Penal Code Review:** The Budget includes $576,000 to begin an effort under the California Law Revision Commission to simplify and rationalize criminal law and criminal procedures included in the penal code. The Penal Code has dramatically increased in size from about 234,000 words in 1965 to 1.2 million in 2018. There are more than 5,000 separate criminal provisions specifying criminal behavior, penalties for convictions, additional enhancements, and credit earning once incarcerated. This complex statutory structure requires study and recommendations to revise the Penal Code. *CURB is advocating for changes in the penal code that will eliminate sentencing enhancements retroactively, allowing thousands of people imprisoned in California to become eligible for resentencing and early parole.*
- **Expand the Board of Parole Hearings staff:** $10.7 million General Fund over the next two years, and $1.9 million General Fund in 2021-22
- **Enacted Legislation**- $9 million General Fund for costs associated with the implementation of legislation that affects CDCR, including: $6.2 million to make certain records of personnel investigations available for public review (SB 1421/ Police Misconduct & Use of Force, Skinner); $1.4 million to provide the Board of Parole Hearings resources to address anticipated increases of pardon and commutation reviews (AB 2845/ Pardon and Commutations Reform Act, Bonta); $681,000 to create and maintain records of peace officer misconduct (AB 2327/ Peace officers: Misconduct: Employment, Quirk); $508,000 in 2019-20 to comply with new prescription authorization requirements (SB 1447/ Pharmacy: Automated Drug Delivery Systems, Hernandez); and $181,000 to comply with newly enacted Suicide Watch reporting requirements (SB 960/ Suicide Prevention, Leyva).
- **Educational Partnerships Program**– $1.8 million General Fund for three years beginning in 2019-20 and an additional $1.2 million General Fund for two years beginning in 2020-2021 to expand and evaluate the Educational Partnerships Program.

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