

POSITION LETTERS (Attachment 3)

As of February 18, 2025

Attachment 3 includes City of Chino position letters on legislation and regulations submitted since the prior report. The attached letters were submitted on behalf of the City during this reporting period.

EUNICE M. ULLOA
Mayor



KAREN C. COMSTOCK
CHRISTOPHER FLORES
MARC LUCIO
Council Members

CURTIS BURTON
Mayor Pro Tem

DR. LINDA REICH
City Manager

CITY of CHINO

January 21, 2025

The Honorable Susan Rubio
California State Senate, District 22
1021 O St., Suite 8710
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Request for Audit of the California Institution for Men by the Joint Legislative Audit Committee

Dear Senator Rubio,

I am writing to formally request that the Joint Legislative Audit Committee (JLAC) conduct a comprehensive audit of the California Institution for Men (CIM). This audit is essential to address persistent concerns regarding operational inefficiencies, staff safety, and the deteriorating state of the facility.

In November 2008, Inspector General David Shaw audited CIM, providing findings and recommendations. A consulting group, Vanderweil Facilities Advisors (VFA), concluded that CIM would require condemnation by 2014 unless proper funding were allocated to maintain and improve its infrastructure. At the time, the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) allocated approximately \$4 million annually for maintenance and repairs. VFA estimated that \$28 million annually would be required to maintain CIM's infrastructure at a minimal level to prevent further degradation. The \$28 million would not improve conditions but merely sustain the facility's already poor state.

Using the Facility Condition Index (FCI), VFA rated CIM's infrastructure. In 2009, CIM's FCI stood at 0.409, indicating poor condition. Without necessary funding, VFA projected the FCI to exceed 0.6 by 2014, at which point replacement—not repair—would be required. Despite these warnings, adequate funding has not been provided, and CIM's infrastructure continues to deteriorate more than 15 years later.

Recent discussions of budget cuts have exacerbated security concerns. Proposals to eliminate several positions within California State Prisons included the removal of CDCR guards from main gates, raising serious safety risks. This change would allow unrestricted access to the prison grounds, including one of CIM's most vulnerable areas—the facility armory. Removing gate security from a facility that houses some of the state's most dangerous criminals is alarming and compromises public safety.



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The Honorable Susan Rubio
January 21, 2025, p.2

CIM has a long history of security challenges. In 1983, Kevin Cooper escaped through a fence and subsequently committed multiple murders. More recently, in 2018, Michael Garrett escaped due to a defective fence that had remained unrepaired for over a decade. The escape exposed flaws in CIM's response protocols. Garrett was eventually apprehended nearly 100 miles away in Encinitas.

The prison's aging infrastructure and limited security features have also posed ongoing risks to public safety. CIM has experienced numerous riots, the most severe occurring in August 2009, involving over 1,300 inmates. The riot resulted in extensive damage to housing units, fires, and over 200 inmate injuries, though no inmates escaped, and staff remained unharmed. This incident further demonstrated CIM's difficulties in maintaining order and safety in an under-resourced facility.

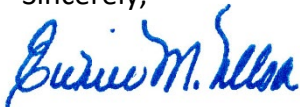
IM was built in 1941 to relieve overcrowding in other state prisons and serve as the nation's first minimum-security facility, focusing on rehabilitation. However, it now houses 46 condemned inmates transferred due to safety concerns at San Quentin State Prison. CIM was never intended to house condemned inmates and lacks the appropriate infrastructure for this purpose.

In 2017, Assembly Member Freddie Rodriguez introduced Assembly Bill 2028, which aimed to require regular security audits and develop plans to address identified deficiencies. Governor Brown vetoed the bill, citing the ongoing security audits conducted by the Office of Audits and Court Compliance. However, these audits have not sufficiently addressed the significant security issues at CIM. In a letter to Acting Secretary Diaz, Assembly Member Rodriguez documented his firsthand observations of the prison's deteriorating infrastructure, security deficiencies, un navigable roads, and failing plumbing, all of which pose health and safety risks to inmates and staff.

Given these ongoing safety, operational, and infrastructure challenges, I urge JLAC to thoroughly audit the California Institution for Men. A comprehensive review will provide transparency, identify critical areas for improvement, and ensure that CIM can operate safely and effectively to protect the community and those within the facility.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Please do not hesitate to contact me if further information is required.

Sincerely,



Eunice Ulloa
Mayor

cc: Chino City Council Members

EUNICE M. ULLOA
Mayor

CURTIS BURTON
Mayor Pro Tem



KAREN C. COMSTOCK
CHRISTOPHER FLORES
MARC LUCIO
Council Members

DR. LINDA REICH
City Manager

CITY of CHINO

January 22, 2025

Senator Susan Rubio
California State Senator
1021 O Street, Suite 8710
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for SB 19: Threats at a School or Place of Worship

Dear Senator Rubio,

I am writing to you as the Chief of Police for the City of Chino to express my strong support for Senate Bill 19, authored by you and co-authored by Senator Niello. This crucial piece of legislation addresses threats that involve schools and places of worship.

The bill addresses threats made by any means, including electronic communications, that cause a reasonable fear for safety. Notably, the requirement of identifying a specific victim is not an element under this bill.

SB 19 proposes specific sentencing guidelines and considers the age of the perpetrator. This bill aims to equip law enforcement with stronger legal tools to effectively prosecute such threats, ensuring they are taken seriously and mitigated promptly.

The Chino Valley has experienced multiple threat-related incidents on school grounds in the past year, with the most recent occurring on January 15, 2025. On that day, a male subject called Chino Dispatch, claiming he was at one of the high schools in the City of Chino. The caller stated his intent to kill 20 students and commit suicide by cop. This incident required a substantial deployment of resources as officers worked diligently to clear the school and address the potential threat.

SB 19 would empower law enforcement and the District Attorney's office to prosecute such suspects, even when a specific victim is not named in the threat. This enhanced ability to hold perpetrators accountable would be a critical step in safeguarding our communities and preventing future incidents.

As a law enforcement professional committed to maintaining public safety, I believe the enactment of SB 19 is a necessary step toward strengthening our ability to protect our schools and places of worship within our communities. This bill aligns with our ongoing efforts to create safer neighborhoods and promote a secure environment for all Californians.



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By working together, we can take meaningful action to address the challenges posed by threats in schools and places of worship.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. I look forward to the positive impact that SB 19 will have on the safety and well-being of our communities. Should you require any further information or wish to discuss this matter in greater detail, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at (909) 334-3093 or via email at Kmensen@chinopd.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'KM', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Kevin Mensen, Chief of Police
Chino Police Department