

MAY 21, 2009

DIRECTOR'S NEWS UPDATE



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DOC Appropriations Approved

At the time of this writing the legislative session is ending and the Department of Corrections' fiscal year 2010 appropriations which starts July 1st has been approved. The department is fortunate to have a held harmless budget...in other words we have the same appropriated amount as we did in fiscal year 2009. Many other agencies have to experience budget reductions above and beyond what they will be taking due to inflationary utility and energy costs and increased employee benefits.

As previously mentioned in the media and Director updates, even though the department was held harmless, unfunded mandates to include an increase to the department's share of costs for employee benefits, unfunded legislation, inflationary costs and net offender population growth will necessitate approximately 15 million dollars in budget reductions. Fortunately, per previous updates, the department has been proactive in the current budget and has begun identifying other cost saving measures for 2010.

These measures include one of our legislative initiatives to expedite transfer of non violent deportable detainee offenders to immigration officials. A host of other cost saving measures are being explored which will allow the department to address our budget reductions without instituting a reduction in force plan or furloughs.

I don't believe anyone can successfully predict the future of our economy or the lifespan of the current recession; therefore it would not be prudent to state that we will not have the possibility of additional legislatively mandated budget reductions once we are in our fiscal year 2010 budget. Also there is a possibility that the current state revenue shortfalls could result in a budget reduction before the end of this current fiscal year. As always, we will keep you current but for now due to a collaborative effort and assistance with the Governor's office and legislative leadership, drastic budget reduction measures have been avoided.