

**California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation**  
**Public Notice Announcement**

**August 2010 Revised Notice of Preparation of Environmental Impact Report (EIR)**  
**And**  
**Public Scoping Meeting**

**Northern California Reentry Facility and**  
**DeWitt Nelson Youth Correctional Facility Conversion**  
**San Joaquin County, California**

**Recirculation of EIR Scoping Notice:** The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) has revised and is distributing for a third time the Notice of Preparation (NOP) for an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the proposed Northern California Reentry Facility (NCRF) on Arch Road in San Joaquin County south of Stockton.

Two NOPs for the proposed NCRF project have been previously circulated for public and responsible agency review by CDCR. After the release of the original NOP on September 18, 2009, the California Health Care Facility (CHCF) was formally approved at the adjacent Karl Holton facility by the California Prison Health Care Receiver (CPR). CDCR also subsequently decided to consider potential conversion of the DeWitt Nelson facility as a correctional facility that would serve mental and medical health care needs for adult male inmates. These two developments resulted in a change to the anticipated scope of the original NCRF EIR requiring recirculation of the original NOP on December 2, 2009. At that time, CDCR anticipated that a subsequent project-level environmental review process would be conducted for the proposed DeWitt Nelson conversion project once it became at some future date an authorized project under the provisions of AB 900.

CDCR is now formally proposing the DeWitt Nelson conversion project because the budget and scope of the proposal have been authorized by the State Public Works Board under the provisions of AB 900. Therefore, in order to provide the community, responsible agencies, and representatives of local agencies an additional opportunity to comment on the scope of the environmental issues that will be addressed in this combined EIR, CDCR is recirculating a second revised NOP ("August 2010 Revised NOP") for the NCRF EIR, expanding the scope of the EIR to include analysis of the DeWitt Nelson Conversion as a separate, individual project analyzed at an equal level of detail as the proposed NCRF.

**Status of CHCF Project.** Since release of the December 2009 NOP, the CHCF has become a fully authorized project by the State Public Works Board under the provisions of AB 900. On August 2, 2010 the City of Stockton, County of San Joaquin, Stockton Chamber of Commerce, CDCR, and Healthcare Receiver signed an agreement settling litigation brought jointly by the City, County, and Chamber against the CHCF EIR. CDCR and CPR are in the process of implementing the conditions of the settlement agreement. Initial construction activities are expected to begin on the CHCF in Fall 2010. Certain elements of the CHCF settlement agreement would affect aspects of the NCRF/DeWitt Nelson projects including planned utility extensions that would benefit all three projects, local traffic improvements, and the implementation of the CHCF Local Hire Outreach Plan and Citizens Advisory Committee provisions.

**What's Being Planned.** As described in the September 2009 NOP, the proposed NCRF project would renovate the former women's correctional facility to a 500-bed secure reentry facility for male inmates scheduled for parole to San Joaquin, Amador, and Calaveras Counties. Existing structures currently containing 400 cells would be converted for a total capacity of 500 inmates. The NCRF would employ 350-400 staff. The conversion would involve construction of an approximately 16,000 square foot single-story medical building, as well as renovation of buildings

for facility program support services, dining and receiving, family visiting, academic and vocational education, and miscellaneous support services.

The proposed DeWitt Nelson project includes conversion of the existing DeWitt Nelson facility as a semi-autonomous adult male medical and mental health facility within the boundaries of the existing facility. The adjoining CHCF may provide primary administration and support for the DeWitt Nelson facility since the two facilities would have similar missions. The project would include housing, programming, healthcare facilities, inmate visiting and some support facilities. The project would contain three new housing units and four renovated dormitory housing units to house up to 1,133 inmates. The facility would employ approximately 450 staff. A firing range would be located south of the DeWitt Nelson boundary near the existing detention basin just north of Austin Road landfill.

Perimeter security for each facility would include a lethal electrified fence that would be constructed within the existing double fence, and armed perimeter guard towers. Other project improvements would include construction, repair, or replacement of boundary line fencing, roads, parking, outer perimeter landscaping, recreation yard improvements, site grading, site lighting, storm drainage improvements, and extension of utilities to each building. CDCR would upgrade each facility's electrical supply and distribution system, water and wastewater supply, storage, treatment, and disposal systems. No new high-mast lighting would be added to the project sites.

Conversion of the former DeWitt Nelson facility to an adult prison would require the relocation and replacement of some existing infrastructure, support buildings, and a portion of the corporation yard to an area between the existing O.H. Close and Chaderjian facilities immediately west of where they are now situated. Drainage improvements may include work in the existing detention basin.

The proposed perimeter security system of the DeWitt Nelson facility may be combined into a single perimeter fence that encompasses not only DeWitt but also the CHCF on a continuous basis. Only minimal changes would be necessary to the CHCF perimeter fence plan. Another option CDCR may consider is a more integrated site plan for the CHCF and DeWitt Nelson facilities. Under this concept, the scope of the CHCF and DeWitt Nelson projects would not change. Each project would continue to provide the same number of beds, employees, and services as previously approved (CHCF) and currently proposed (DeWitt Nelson) but the site plans may be combined.

In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the State CEQA Guidelines, CDCR (as lead agency) will be preparing an EIR to evaluate environmental effects associated with the proposed NCRF and DeWitt Nelson Conversion. In accordance with Section 15082 of the CEQA Guidelines, CDCR has prepared an NOP to provide responsible and trustee agencies and other interested parties with information describing the proposed project and the CEQA topic areas that will be evaluated in the EIR.

The environmental issues to be addressed in the EIR will include, but not necessarily be limited to: air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, hazards and hazardous materials, transportation/traffic, aesthetics, light and glare, geology and soils, hydrology and water quality, noise, population and housing, public services, recreation, utilities and service systems (water, wastewater, solid waste, etc.), greenhouse gas emissions, and cumulative and growth-inducing impacts.

**Project Location:** There are two project sites that will be addressed in the EIR: one for the proposed NCRF and the other for the proposed DeWitt Nelson Conversion. Both sites are state-owned properties in unincorporated San Joaquin County, immediately southeast of the Stockton city limits. The sites are less than two miles east of State Route 99, which provides regional access to the sites. Arch Road provides direct access to the NCRF site. The DeWitt Nelson site is currently accessed via Newcastle Road.

**Scoping Meeting:** CDCR is holding two public scoping meetings on **August 24, 2010 at 2:00 PM and at 6:00 PM at the San Joaquin Council of Governments building located at 555 E. Weber Avenue in Stockton.** The public scoping meeting is intended to receive comments on the scope and content of the environmental information CDCR will address in the EIR for the proposed project.

**Where to Review the NOP and Provide Comments:** Copies of the NOP are available for review at the following locations:

Clerk-Recorder, Amador County  
810 Court Street  
Jackson, CA 95642

Clerk-Recorder, Calaveras County  
891 Mountain Ranch Road  
San Andreas, CA 95249

San Joaquin County Clerk  
Pacific State Bank Building  
6 South El Dorado Street,  
Second Floor Stockton, CA 95202

San Joaquin County Library  
605 N. El Dorado Street  
Stockton, CA 95202

City Clerk, Stockton City Hall  
425 N. El Dorado Street  
Stockton, CA 95202

A copy of the NOP is also available at our website at:

[http://www.cdcr.ca.gov/Reports\\_Research/Environmental/index.html](http://www.cdcr.ca.gov/Reports_Research/Environmental/index.html)

Comments regarding the scope and content of environmental information CDCR should address in the EIR for the two proposed projects may be submitted in writing via mail, e-mail, or fax any time during the 30-day scoping period. The NOP is available for a 30-day public review period from **August 16, 2010 through September 16, 2010.** Comments should be submitted no later than **5:00 p.m. on September 16, 2010.** Comments may be sent to:

Roxanne Henriquez, Senior Environmental Planner  
Environmental Planning Section  
Office of Facilities Planning, Construction, and Management  
Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation  
9838 Old Placerville Road, Suite B  
Sacramento, CA 95827  
FAX: (916) 255-3030  
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Individuals who require special accommodations (American Sign Language Interpreter, special seating, documents in alternative formats, etc.) are asked to contact Roxanne Henriquez as soon as possible prior to the public hearing to help ensure availability. **TDD users may contact the California Relay Service at 711.**