



FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES
April 15, 2013

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Fact Sheet: Three-Judge Panel Ruling on CDCR Inmate Population

The Ruling

On April 11, 2013, the Three-Judge Panel denied the State of California's motion to vacate or modify the order to reduce the prison population to 137.5 percent of design capacity.

The State had asked the Court in January to allow a higher prison population because CDCR is already offering medical and mental health care to inmates at a level that satisfies constitutional requirements.

However, the Court rejected that argument and ordered California to comply with the population reduction order by December 31.

The Court also issued a ruling ordering the State to submit within 21 days details of a plan for complying with the population reduction order.

What's Next

Governor Brown has publicly stated that the State will appeal the Three-Judge Panel's ruling to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Governor Brown said he wants to tour some of the institutions with the most challenges.

What We're Saying

April 11, 2013

"The truth of the matter is that California has invested more than a billion dollars to transform its prison health care system into one of the best in the country. Our prisons now provide timely and effective health care to inmates that far exceeds what the Constitution requires. Further forced reductions to the prison population would unnecessarily jeopardize public safety. We will appeal."

What We're Saying (continued)

April 12, 2013

“Since 2006, the inmate population in the state’s 33 prisons has been reduced by more than 43,000. We have spent more than a billion dollars to build new health care facilities and hire hundreds of new doctors, nurses and support staff. We are providing constitutional level of care. The Court’s population cap is based on an outdated one person per cell concept of design capacity that does not accurately reflect the prison system’s true capacity. No other prison system in the country uses this one-inmate-per-cell measurement to determine capacity. With all of the additional treatment space California has added, coupled with the dramatic reduction in the inmate population, California’s prison system is no longer overcrowded.

“The inmates’ lawyers contend that we could release thousands of felons into California communities without threatening public safety. That’s simply not true. Any further forced reduction of the prison population is unnecessary and unsafe.”

What Others are Saying

In a letter dated April 12, 2013, addressed to Governor Brown and Secretary Beard, the California State Sheriffs’ Association requested that any future responses by the Administration to the Court must include the option of additional CDCR capacity.

Here are links to the Three-Judge rulings:

Three-Judge Court Opinion and Order Denying Defendants' Motion to Vacate or Modify Population Reduction Order

Coleman Termination Order

Three-Judge Court Order Requiring List of Proposed Population Reduction Measures
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