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# California State Senate

SENATOR  
KELLY SEYARTO

THIRTY-SECOND SENATE DISTRICT



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TRANSPORTATION

May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024

The Honorable Governor Gavin Newsom  
California State Capitol  
1021 O Street, Suite 9000  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Newsom:

I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the recent transfer of condemned inmates from San Quentin State Prison's Death Row to the California Institution for Men (CIM) in Chino. As a State Representative for the neighboring city of Chino Hills, I am extremely troubled by the potential public safety risks associated with this action.

As one of the oldest institutions in the State, it is evident that the current conditions at CIM are not equipped to handle such an influx of some of our more dangerous incarcerated individuals. Recent assessments have highlighted significant deficiencies in the aging infrastructure raising security concerns, potentially putting staff and the community at risk. Until the necessary improvements are made, these inmates should remain in the higher security facility, which is San Quentin State Prison.

As you know, to comply with Proposition 66, which was passed by California voters in 2016 and allows condemned inmates to engage in prison programs and work assignments that contribute to restitution for their victims, the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation has begun transferring inmates from facilities with segregated death row cells to facilities that have an electrified fence under the Condemned Inmate Transfer Program. With the start of construction for the rehabilitation campus at San Quentin getting underway, it seems that there would be an opportunity for much more purposeful participation in higher-wage potential work at the facility that these inmates were transferred from. This would allow those inmates to pay restitution in a more expedited manner.

I urge you to reconsider these transfers to CIM and encourage you or CDCR officials to explore other alternatives or at least engage with local officials, community leaders, and residents to explore an alternative solution that prioritizes the public's safety.

Thank you for your attention on this pressing issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kelly Seyarto".

Kelly Seyarto  
State Senator, 32nd District