



COUNTY OF DEL NORTE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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February 14, 2017

Fax
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Warden, Clark Ducart
Pelican Bay State Prison
5905 Lake Earl Drive
Crescent City, CA 95531

Re: Community Work Crews

Dear Warden Ducart,

The Del Norte County Board of Supervisors is writing to strongly support the return of Level I inmate work crews in Del Norte County. The Board of Supervisors understands your interest in re-establishing a partnership that would utilize inmate labor to assist the County in increasing beautification and blight removal efforts. The use of inmate work crews was originally touted as a positive step in the State contributing back to the community through direct investment of staff and inmate labor with very little cost to Del Norte County.

In 1989 The State of California, Department of Corrections and Del Norte County entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that resulted in improvements to County Park facilities. In October of 1990 the Board of Supervisors authorized a Memorandum of Understanding that expanded the use of Level I Inmate labor to include a number of additional facilities including but not limited to roadways, airport, community service districts, flood control facilities and cemeteries. Resolution 90-37 memorialized the action of the Board of Supervisors. The use of the inmate crews supported promises made by the State of California in their efforts to gain support for construction of Pelican Bay State Prison.

Del Norte County efficiently utilized inmate labor for a number of years, on a year to year basis, working cooperatively with CDCR by contributing to the effort with equipment and materials. In 1998, the County and State entered into a five (5) year Memorandum of Understanding with the intent that "..... there shall be no payments involved in this MOU." In October of 2003 CDCR alerted Del Norte County to a policy change that would eliminate work crews without a significant County financial commitment estimated at one hundred thousand dollars annually. Del Norte County was in no position to commit funds and the use of inmate crew's ceased.

The Del Norte County Board of Supervisors encourages and supports your effort to re-establish the inmate labor program, and further supports the program be instituted consistent with the original intention and requiring little or no financial impact to Del Norte County. Del Norte County would be interested in discussing a new Memorandum of Understanding that outlines the beneficial services offered to the community in the past. The County is committed to contacting our State representatives in order to assist in the effort to re-establish inmate work crews in Del Norte County. Your interest and assistance in this matter is very much appreciated.

Sincerely,

Roger Gitlin, Vice-Chair
Board of Supervisors
Del Norte County, California

Cc. Senator Mike McGuire
Assemblyman Jim Wood
Scott Kernan, CDCR Secretary