

California State Senate

SENATOR
CAROLE MIGDEN
THIRD SENATE DISTRICT
DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS CHAIR
MAJORITY WHIP

DISTRICT OFFICES

SAN FRANCISCO
455 GOLDEN GATE AVENUE
SUITE 14800
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102
(415) 557-1300

MARIN / SONOMA
3501 CIVIC CENTER DRIVE
ROOM 425
SAN RAFAEL, CA 94903
(415) 479-6612

SENATOR.MIGDEN@SEN.CA.GOV



March 26, 2007

The Honorable Mike Machado
Chair, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review
Subcommittee No. 4 on State Admin., General Govt., Judicial, and Transportation
State Capitol, Room 5066
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation; Adult Corrections
San Quentin Condemned Inmate Complex (CIC)

Dear Senator Machado:

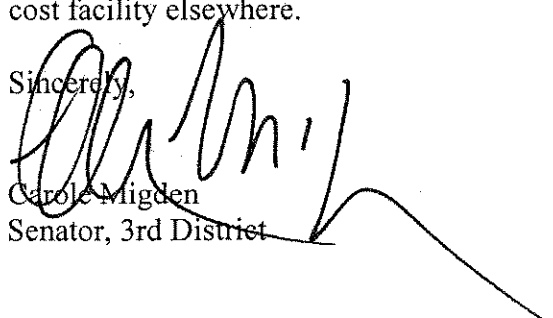
I request the adoption of the Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) recommendation to cancel the San Quentin death row housing project and to use the remaining previously authorized funding to build additional condemned prison capacity elsewhere. The Subcommittee is set to review the Adult Corrections (Budget Item 5225) on Thursday, April 12, 2007.

As you know, the Governor's budget proposes an additional \$117 million to finish the construction of the new death row facility at San Quentin state prison. This proposal brings the final project costs to an outrageous \$337 million. As the LAO notes, in the time since the Legislature first authorized the project, important aspects of the project have changed, warranting reconsideration of the project's merits.

The cost of the project has increased 53 percent since 2003, even though the project's size has been reduced by 25 percent. Assuming that the cost does not increase further, at the proposed estimate California is paying almost \$300,000 per bed; this is more than twice the cost of other high-security beds. The excessive cost of this project is directly related to the location: there are greater engineering requirements due to unstable soil and higher costs for Bay Area labor and materials. Further, it is unclear as to whether the higher costs will ultimately result in increased capacity. The LAO points out that under the project's Environmental Impact Report (EIR) the state agreed to restrict the total number of total inmates at San Quentin to 6,558.

I believe that it is in the best interest of California taxpayers for the Legislature to cancel the San Quentin death row housing facility, to deny the Governor's request for an additional \$117 million, and to use the remaining \$205 million from previous appropriations to build a lower-cost facility elsewhere.

Sincerely,



Carole Migden
Senator, 3rd District

Cc: Hon. Denise Moreno Ducheny, Chair, Budget and Fiscal Review
Hon. Dennis Hollingsworth, Vice-Chair, Budget and Fiscal Review