

Is PBSP on the Chopping Block?

May 31, 2025



Governor Gavin Newsom must cut \$12B from the May revision of the \$321.9B 2025-26 California State budget...and on the Newsom ax is the closing of yet another California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation prison... the closing, effective October 2025-26 will be the fifth since Gov. Newsom sharpened his ax.

Will Pelican Bay State Prison be the next one to go? Unknown but unlikely, if one would conjecture its future.

The costs to operate PBSP are actually lower than many of the 30+ institutions up and down the Golden State. Its remoteness in the far north of California is advantageous in separating the inmates. Proposition 36 is expected to increase inmate population. During the 24-25 budget crunch. The Governor closed 46 housing units within 13 prisons.

Inmate population peaked in 2006, when California locked up 165,000. With a bevy of programs, the effects of Covid 19, federal court intervention, California's prisons house about 65,000 inmates, today

The closed prisons include Deuel Vocational in Tracy, California Correctional Center in Susanville, Privately-held California City Correctional Facility and Chuckwalla Valley State Prison near Blythe. The City of Blythe hired a Public Relations firm and has brought a federal lawsuit against CDCR to stop the closure.