



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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January 16, 2008

County Official
Washington State Counties

Dear County Official:

Enclosed is a copy of the January 2008 Work Release Siting Advisory Committee Report presented to the Department of Corrections (DOC). This report is updating the July 2, 2007 information submitted to the Office of Financial Management on the topic of equitable distribution of state work release facilities. This report was developed by a statewide committee convened to advise DOC on the equitable distribution of additional work release capacity statewide. The recommendations in the report will provide guidance to DOC as we begin the local process of expanding our work release capacity.

The committee evaluated the question of equitable distribution using a number of different methodologies and concluded that the most equitable method for distributing work releases throughout the state would be to base the distribution on county population.

The committee has recommended that the counties that do not currently have work release capacity be the highest priority for new facilities taking into consideration the overlay factors identified in the text of this report. The committee also recommended that DOC seek partnering opportunities for establishing work releases with local jurisdictions and continue to work with inter jurisdictional agreements where possible.

The committee report identifies work release facility capacity needs throughout the state. If your county is identified as needing capacity we invite you to contact Steve Lewandowski at (360) 725-8347 concerning how the local siting process might be started within your county and if any opportunities are available to work with you to partner state work release needs with local projects.

Sincerely,

Eldon Vail
Secretary

Enclosure