



## Council of Prison Locals #33

### Western Region

December 17, 2021

Regional Director Rios,

The Western Region facilities are in a crisis with staffing that is directly affecting the welfare of all current staff. The Western Regional Union Leaders and I stand in unity demanding this crisis be addressed immediately.

The agency has acknowledged this staffing crisis as it has amended operations at all facilities and began using aspects like augmentation to cover for the shortage of staff in custody. In the same respects mandatory overtime for staff is at an alarming rate. The point is clear; WE NEED MORE STAFF!

Not only does the Bureau of Prisons, Western Region, need to hire more staff, we need to ensure we can retain staff. This can be accomplished by ensuring competitive pay, as the facilities in the Western Region are not in line with others such as CDCR, and as such are losing staff to those agencies. The union leaders are demanding that the region apply for a 25% retention for all facilities in the Western Region immediately.

In June 2021 the agency imposed a hiring freeze, and the Western Region Union Leaders vocalized our opposition to this process. We expressed the dangers to our staff and the communities with this implementation. The hiring freeze has turned the staffing crisis into an emergency. Our staff are being stretched thin and worked to the breaking point. The staff morale and welfare is at an all-time low. The fear of staff committing suicide are now reality, and it is happening at a rate that is heart wrenching.

The Western Region Union Leaders and I demand action immediately from the region to properly staff our facilities and to ensure competitive pay for all employees. Cease all actions that are putting our staff and communities at risk and address the problems appropriately.

Thank you.

*John Kostelnik*

John Kostelnik  
Western Regional Vice President

*William Stokes*

William Stokes  
Western Regional Legislative Coordinator

*Ili Meaole*

Ili Meaole  
Western Regional Fair Practice Coordinator  
Local 1102 Acting President, FDC SeaTac

*Richard Hernandez*

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Local 3955 President, FCC Tucson

*Edward Canales*

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Local 3584 President, FCI Dublin

*Josh Easley*

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Local 1217 Acting President, FCI Herlong

*Frank Melendez*

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Local 3969 President, FCC Victorville

*Taylor Gilbert*

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Local 4397 President, FCC Lompoc

*Ryan Hill*

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Local 4038 President, MDC Los Angeles

*Loren Hogan*

Loren Hogan  
Local 3954 President, FCI Phoenix

*Christopher Ornelas*

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Local 2313 President, FCI Safford

*Aaron McGlothlin*

Aaron McGlothlin  
Local 1237 President, FCI Mendota

*Alex Reynoso*

Alex Reynoso  
Local 1680 President, FCI Terminal Island

*Robert Lyons*

Robert Lyons  
Local 3979 President, FCI Sheridan

*Donald Martin*

Donald Martin  
Local 1242 President, USP Atwater

*Michael Meserve*

Michael Meserve  
Local 1218 President, FDC Honolulu

*Tre Sagale*

Tre Sagale  
Local 3619 President, MCC San Diego