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City of Chowchilla

Press Release



For Release: January 5, 2012

Lawsuit Against State Dept. of Corrections

City of Chowchilla takes necessary action to protect community from proposed prison conversion

Chowchilla, CA, January 5, 2012: On Friday, January 6, 2012, the City of Chowchilla will file a petition for a Writ of Mandate against the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) for CDCR's failure to comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

For the last several months, the City of Chowchilla and other governmental agencies in Madera County have attempted to mitigate the consequences of CDCR's actions related to Valley State Prison for Women (VSPW) and the department's intended conversion of a women's prison to a men's prison as a part of the state's prison realignment plan.

The City of Chowchilla and other local government agencies in Madera County believe that CDCR's planned conversion from a women's prison to a men's prison will have a significant environmental impact on the community and the region.

Mayor Janan Hebert stated "The Chowchilla City Council feels it is imperative to take necessary steps to protect our community and our rural way of life from the state's planned prison conversion. It's unfortunate that

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we have to file papers in court in order to keep our neighborhoods secure but CDCR has left us with no other options.”

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