



August 31, 2011

Mr. Charles L. Ryan  
Director  
Arizona Department of Corrections  
1601 W. Jefferson  
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Dear Mr. Ryan:

Please accept this letter as WESTMARC's official opposition to a potential expansion of Perryville Prison in the City of Goodyear.

WESTMARC is the regional coalition of the business, government and education communities in the West Valley, representing 15 cities and towns and 70,000 jobs. Our organization's top two priorities are regional economic development and promoting a positive image of the West Valley. The possible expansion of Perryville will negatively impact our efforts in both areas.

The West Valley is at a turning point in its development as a region. The next wave of population growth in Arizona is projected to be concentrated in Western Maricopa County. Developments over the next five to ten years will likely define the West Valley's future. A regional economic development strategy focused on creating job opportunities must be a top priority. An expansion of the Perryville Prison will significantly undermine the effort to grow and attract high-quality employers in the West Valley.

The proposed expansion site is in very close proximity to the Palm Valley 303 development, which is planned to be one of the largest business parks in the Southwest. Goodyear has been very effective in developing similar parts of the city into the home of high-quality employers over the last several years, including Cancer Treatment Centers of America, Sub-Zero and Suntech. Siting a prison expansion in an area of such high visibility and economic potential would not only seriously impede Goodyear's progress, it would be detrimental for the many other West Valley communities for which the Interstate 10 / Loop 303 corridor will serve as a gateway.

There are several other reasons the Perryville expansion proposal is undesirable, including proximity to Scott Libby Elementary School and the safety concerns that should result from the site's accessibility to a major interstate highway. Further, the four other sites under consideration—Coolidge, Eloy, San Luis and Winslow—are actively seeking the expansion as an opportunity for the type of economic gain that better fits their communities.

We urge you to take these points into consideration as you evaluate proposals for the prison expansion project.

Sincerely,

Michelle Rider  
President and CEO

cc: Governor Jan Brewer  
President Russell Pearce, Arizona Senate  
Speaker Andy Tobin, Arizona House of Representatives  
Supervisor Max Wilson, Maricopa County  
West Valley Legislators

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