



U.S. Department of Justice

Civil Rights Division

*Office of the Assistant Attorney General
Washington, D.C. 20530*

August 13, 2026

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor of California
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, California 95814

Re: Notice of Findings Regarding Investigation of Central California Women's Facility and California Institution for Women

Dear Governor Newsom:

I write to inform you that the United States Department of Justice has completed its investigation of the Central California Women's Facility (CCWF) and the California Institution for Women (CIW), conducted pursuant to the Civil Rights of Institutionalized Persons Act, 42 U.S.C. § 1997 (CRIPA). Consistent with the statutory requirements of CRIPA, we provide this notice of the alleged conditions that we have reasonable cause to believe violate the Constitution. We also notify you of the supporting facts giving rise to those alleged conditions and the minimum corrective measures that we believe are required to remedy those alleged conditions.

After carefully reviewing the evidence, we conclude that there is reasonable cause to believe that the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR), CCWF, and CIW violate the Eighth and Fourteenth Amendments of the U.S. Constitution. Specifically, we have reasonable cause to believe that egregious and flagrant conditions exist at CDCR, CCWF, and CIW that create a pattern or practice of grievous violations of prisoners' rights at CCWF and CIW by failing to protect prisoners from sexual abuse and sexual harassment by staff.

We thank CDCR, CCWF, CIW, and the California Attorney General's office for accommodating our investigation and providing access to CDCR's facilities, staff, documents, and prisoners. We hope that we can continue to collaborate on a mutual resolution of the issues raised in this notice.

We are obligated to advise you that 49 days after the issuance of this notice, the Attorney General may initiate a lawsuit to correct the alleged conditions we have identified if prison officials have not satisfactorily addressed them. 42 U.S.C. § 1997b(a)(1). We hope, however, to resolve this matter through a more cooperative approach and look forward to working with you to address the violations of law we have identified. The lawyers assigned to this investigation will be in contact with the State's lawyers to discuss options for resolving this matter amicably. Please also note that this notice is a public document. We will post it on the Civil Rights Division's website.

If your staff have questions regarding this notice, please contact Patrick McCarthy, Chief of the Special Litigation Section, at Patrick.McCarthy@usdoj.gov.

Regards,



Harmeet K. Dhillon
Assistant Attorney General

cc: Rob Bonta
Attorney General
California

David Sapp
Legal Affairs Secretary
Governor's Office

Jeff Macomber
Secretary
California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation

Anissa De La Cruz
Warden
Central California Women's Facility

Sonia Padilla
Acting Warden
California Institution for Women

Attachment: Investigation of Central California Women's Facility and California Institution for Women