

CALIFORNIA  
PRISON HEALTH CARE  
RECEIVERSHIP CORP.

J. Clark Kelso  
Receiver

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

April 24, 2008

Charles Watson  
SVSP Soledad  
450 Golden Gate Avenue, 19<sup>th</sup> Floor  
San Francisco, CA 94102

Dear Mr. Watson:

Thank you for your comment dated March 12, 2008, on the Receiver's draft strategic plan.

The policy and legal issue that you raise -- whether it is equitable and sustainable for the State to provide medical care to inmates that may be, in some aspects, better than the medical care available to some members of the general public -- is beyond the scope of the Receiver's authority. Federal courts have determined around the country that states and local governments are obliged to provide constitutionally adequate care to inmates. The level of care does not require the expenditure of unlimited sums, but there is no question that it requires reasonable steps to avoid significant illness or death and to reduce and treat significant pain and injury. We believe the draft strategic plan is consistent with these legal requirements, and at the end of the day, it will be for the courts to determine the appropriateness of the level of care being provided.

Sincerely,



J. Clark Kelso  
Receiver