April 28, 2008

Receiver J. Clark Kelso
Receiver’s Strategic Plan
PO Box 4038
Sacramento, CA 95812-4038

Subject: Comments Regarding The Federal Receiver’s Draft Strategic Plan (2.0), dated April 21, 2008

Dear Receiver Kelso:

I am writing in response to The Federal Receiver’s Draft Strategic Plan (2.0), dated April 21, 2008. The City of Chino’s comments and concerns remain the same as those shared at our meeting of April 2, 2008, and as reiterated in our letter dated April 11, 2008, in response to First Draft of The Federal Receiver’s Strategic Plan (letter attached as reference).

Simply stated, the existing overcrowding and failing infrastructure issues at the California Institution for Men (CIM) should be addressed in a global manner before any new facilities and/or programs are considered at this location. We recognize that you are addressing the rehabilitation of existing medical facilities at all 33 CDCR facilities, but that will not address the severe overcrowding and infrastructure issues throughout CIM, which were discussed in detail at our April 2, 2008 meeting. Unless and until those issues are addressed, we cannot support the placement of new facilities at this site.

In summary, our message has been consistent and strong; the problems that have existed at CIM for years have not been addressed and we cannot continue to ignore the disaster that currently exists at CIM and just keep placing new facilities on that property.
We also recognize that you have a monumental task and we appreciate your consideration of our position as you work to achieve a constitutional level of care in California’s prisons. As discussed at our April 2, 2008 meeting and reiterated in our April 11, 2008 letter, City officials desire to work cooperatively with the Receiver and the CDCR on the issues of overcrowding and deteriorating facilities, but Chino officials will adamantly oppose any effort to place a mental health care facility within this community.

Once the two prime issues of overcrowding and deteriorating infrastructure are addressed, we would be very open to cooperatively addressing the placement of a re-entry facility or other supportive services.

In closing, thank you once again for meeting with us on April 2, 2008; for considering our proposal for financing and construction of a new CDCR facility to replace the deteriorating CIM; and for listening to our comments and concerns regarding your Draft Strategic Plan relative to medical care in California’s prisons.

Sincerely,

Patrick J. Glover
City Manager

Attachment

Cc: Mayor and Council Members
   City of Chino Hills City Manager
April 11, 2008

Receiver J. Clark Kelso
Receiver’s Strategic Plan
PO Box 4038
Sacramento, CA 95812-4038

Subject: Memorialization of the City of Chino’s Concerns Expressed Relative to the Plan for Placement of Medical and/or Mental Health Facilities at Our Meeting Held April 2, 2008

Dear Receiver Kelso:

I am writing to memorialize what City of Chino Mayor Dennis Yates and City of Chino Hills Mayor Curt Hagman conveyed to you and your team when we met in your office on Wednesday, April 2, 2008, regarding the Chino Valley’s grave concerns relative to placement of a medical and/or mental health facility on CIM property, which is identified as a possibility in your Draft Strategic Plan.

In summary and as shared in that meeting, the cities of Chino and Chino Hills believe that the existing conditions at the California Institution for Men (CIM) should be addressed in a global manner before any new facilities and/or programs are considered at this location. As shared in detail, there are severe overcrowding and decaying infrastructure issues at CIM. Unless and until those issues are addressed, we cannot support the placement of new facilities at this site.

Also shared at that meeting, the City of Chino, along with the City of Chino Hills and other community partners, submitted a proposal to the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) in May 2007 (a copy was provided to you and your staff on April 2, 2008), which would help the CDCR to alleviate the severe issues that already exist at CIM, through construction of a new prison facility. This would be achieved, in part, through the State’s sale of surplus land in Chino.

Before the action steps in your Draft Strategic Plan are implemented, we again firmly state our position regarding the following:

• The City of Chino is already home to three correctional institutions;
• Chino already houses approximately 9,000 prisoners within our City limits;
• The current physical plant at CIM is deteriorating and it is not safe for CDCR staff, prisoners or the community;
• There are serious infrastructure issues at CIM that must be addressed for the health and safety of the community, CDCR staff and prisoners, which include the sewer system water, and land subsidence;
• Overcrowding is a very serious issue at both CIM and the California Institution for Women (CIW);
• The placement of a medical and/or mental health facility at or near CIM will bring additional prisoners to the community and those prisoners will still be a drain on emergency service providers, e.g. Police and Fire, and even community medical facilities, which will continue to be used for emergency and acute care;
• Residents of Chino and Chino Hills feel threatened by the thought of a mental health facility being sited in Chino;
• Residents are very outspoken and active in their opposition to a mental health facility;
• Our region suffered a huge tragedy when an escaped prisoner murdered four people, a family and one of their friends, and this case is still fresh and alive in residents' minds;
• Concern that mental health out-patient services would be provided out of the facility at some point in the future;
• The Chino community is tired of continually being placed at-risk.

In summary, our message has been consistent and strong; the problems that have existed at CIM for years have not been addressed and we cannot continue to ignore the disaster that currently exists at CIM and just keep placing new facilities on that property.

Despite that and with all of the above in mind, City officials desire to work cooperatively with the Receiver and the CDCR on the issues of overcrowding and deteriorating facilities, but Chino officials will adamantly oppose any effort to place a mental health care facility within this community.

We respectfully request that the overriding concerns of overcrowding and deteriorating facilities be addressed in Chino and that time and energy not be expended and/or wasted on the placement of additional facilities that will only burden our already overburdened infrastructure and services.

Once the two prime issues of overcrowding and deteriorating infrastructure are addressed, we would be very open to cooperatively addressing the placement of a re-entry facility or other supportive services.

As you are probably aware, Chino staff spoke with Wendy Saunders of your team on April 9, 2008, and during that conversation, Ms. Saunders indicated her likely plan to come to Chino later this month, with other members of your team, to meet
relative to our proposal for CIM, land use issues, etc. We look forward to that
meeting and thank you and Ms. Saunders in advance for working with us on our
proposal.

In closing, thank you once again for meeting with us on April 2, 2008, and for
listening to our comments and concerns regarding your strategic plan relative to
medical care in California’s prisons. We recognize that you have a monumental
task and we appreciate your consideration of our position as you work to achieve
a constitutional level of care in California’s prisons.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Patrick J. Glover
City Manager

cc: Mayor and Council Members
City of Chino Hills City Manager