



CDCR Announces Closure of Riverside County Prison by Fall 2026

Norco Facility Latest Prison Closure, Saving California Taxpayers Hundreds of Millions of Dollars Every Year While Crime Drops to Historic Lows

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 5, 2025

CONTACT:

Will Matthews, Californians for Safety and Justice, (909) 261-1398; media@safeandjust.org

OAKLAND, Calif. — The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) on Monday announced the permanent closure of a prison in Riverside County, as both statewide crime rates and the number of people locked up in the state's sprawling prison system continue declines spanning more than a decade.

The California Rehabilitation Center in Norco will shutter its doors beginning in the Fall of 2026, CDCR said. The move comes in response to California's prison population dropping to its lowest level in nearly half a century, spurred in large part by reforms from the past decade that have safely reduced the inflow of people into the system by also prioritizing funding for community-based crime and harm prevention programs.

The state Department of Justice last month released crime statistics for 2024 showing that both property and violent crime continued longstanding overall declines to some of the lowest levels in the recorded history of California.

At the same time, the state's prison population has been nearly halved, from an all-time high of just more than 173,000 prisoners in 2006 to today's population of about 91,000.

In its announcement, CDCR noted that the closure of the California Rehabilitation Center will be the fourth prison to be shut down in recent years, along with the deactivation of 11 facilities, portions of two other facilities and 42 housing units across 11 prisons. Combined, the closures and deactivations have netted California hundreds of millions of dollars in annual savings, according to CDCR.

The following can be attributed to Tinisch Hollins, executive director of Californians for Safety and Justice, California's leading public safety advocacy organization:

"We commend both Gov. Gavin Newsom and CDCR for their historic and continued commitment to moving California away from overspending on a system that doesn't deliver on safety. The last decade in California has made clear that when we invest in proven and community-based crime and harm prevention programs like job training, housing support and drug and mental health treatment programs, we increase community stability and increase safety. This is the path we must keep pursuing. We will achieve the safety every Californian deserves only when we create a balanced system that recognizes just how critical it is that we prevent crime and harm from occurring in the first place."