

San Quentin State Prison

San Quentin State Prison is California's oldest and best known correctional institution, which was established on a site currently known as Point San Quentin, in July 1852. The prison rests overlooking the bay on 440 acres, and is located just 12 miles north of the Golden Gate Bridge in the county of Marin. The walled prison is made up of four large cell blocks, one maximum security cell block, Neumiller Health Care Services building, a medium security dorm setting and a minimum security dorm. The prison houses an all-male population consisting of a death row population, a medium and minimum security general population, and a Reception Center that serves 17 greater bay area counties. In addition, San Quentin is the site of California's only execution chamber.

San Quentin currently houses 5068 inmates, 620 of which are on death row and approximately 2800 in the Reception Center with the remaining inmates making up the Level II and Level I general population. The prison's metropolitan location lends to a volunteer base that exceeds 3000 per year from the local communities that offer their services to support inmate activities and programs that range from faith based religious programs to secular self-help programs, and sports and recreation activities to college degree programs.

San Quentin currently employs 1481 staff. Of this total, 986 are peace officers and 495 are non-peace officers working in human resources, procurement, maintenance, education, records, health care and the trades.

San Quentin's operating budget for the 2005/2006 fiscal year is \$206,185,468. Of that total \$44,479,195 is allocated for medical care of the inmate population, and \$4,430,012 is allocated for education. Of the \$178,955,558 allocated for personnel services approximately 89% is used for wages, including staff benefits, overtime and workers compensation. The remaining balance is used for operating expenses and equipment, which includes feeding of the inmate population, utilities, waste removal, equipment, communications and inmate subsistence and personal care.

The current challenges facing San Quentin include:

- Staff vacancies / retention, due largely in part to the high cost of living in the Marin County and the Bay Area, noting the medium cost of a home in Marin County is approximately \$990,000.
- Initiate and complete the construction of a new 768 cell, 1152 bed Condemned Inmate Complex (CIC) to house the ever-increasing death row population in a modern facility designed to protect the public, promote staff and inmate safety and security and afford more compliant and comprehensive programming.
- Provide medical care to inmates that meet constitutional standards.
- Maintaining the physical plant of California's oldest correctional facility.