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WESTMARC Officially Opposes Potential Expansion of Perryville Prison

WESTMARC has voted to officially oppose the proposal for an expansion of the Perryville Prison in Goodyear.

The Arizona Department of Corrections (ADC) has issued an RFP to private prison contractors for the construction and operation of a 5,000-bed prison to house minimum/medium security male inmates. In the RFP, the ADC has offered five sites for the responders to consider, including an expansion of Perryville Prison in Goodyear and sites in Winslow, San Luis, Eloy and Coolidge.

The potential Perryville expansion site is located on state land which is adjacent to Scott L. Libby Elementary School and is very close to the Palm Valley 303, which is planned to be one of the largest business parks in the Southwest.

In a letter to the Arizona Department of Corrections conveying WESTMARC's opposition to Perryville as a potential site, President and CEO Michelle Rider stated: "The West Valley is at a turning point in its development as a region. The next wave of population growth in Arizona is projected to be concentrated in Western Maricopa County. Developments over the next five to ten years will likely define the West Valley's future. A regional economic development strategy focused on creating job opportunities must be a top priority. An expansion of the Perryville Prison will significantly undermine the effort to grow and attract high-quality employers in the West Valley."

Rider further states that "Goodyear has been very effective in developing similar parts of the city into the home of high-quality employers over the last several years, including Cancer Treatment Centers of America, Sub-Zero and Suntech. Siting a prison expansion in an area of such high visibility and economic potential would not only seriously impede Goodyear's progress, it would be detrimental for the many other West Valley communities for which the Interstate 10 / Loop 303 corridor will serve as a gateway."

WESTMARC is the regional coalition of the business, government and education communities in the West Valley, representing 15 cities and towns and 70,000 jobs.

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