



**U.S. Department of Justice**

Office of Legislative Affairs

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*Office of the Assistant Attorney General*

*Washington, D.C. 20530*

**OCT 30 2019**

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Leader:

This responds to your letter to the Attorney General and Director of the Bureau of Prisons (BOP) dated October 4, 2019, regarding the Taft Correctional Institute (Taft). As you are aware, Taft is a government-owned, contractor-operated facility. We understand your concerns about the announced plans to not renew the contract for the facility's operations after the contract expires on January 30, 2019.

BOP initially announced it would be deactivating Taft following the receipt of the Facility Assessment Report (the Report), which was completed this July by an independent architectural and engineering firm. The Report identified a number of repairs that should be undertaken at Taft to ensure the safety of the staff and inmates.

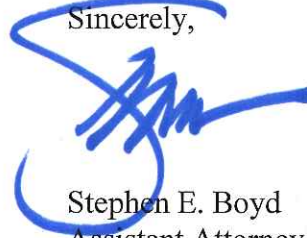
BOP has decided to take a closer examination of the repairs and issues highlighted in the Report and determine whether the repairs can be made while the facility remains operational. This option was contemplated in the Report—although the feasibility of remaining open while repairing the facility was not addressed in any detail. BOP will also analyze any life-safety issues highlighted in the Report to determine if keeping the facility open during repairs is consistent with the health and safety requirements for staff members, visitors, and inmates. Additionally, BOP is examining the cost of keeping the facility open during those necessary repairs. We anticipate that this study will be completed by the end of the year. With these considerations in mind, BOP has halted the prisoner drawdown from Taft until December 31, 2019.

The Department of Justice recognizes that this is a significant matter to you and the citizens of California. BOP is exploring all options for keeping Taft in the BOP system. We will continue to update you as more information becomes available.

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Page Two

We hope this information is helpful. Please do not hesitate to contact this office if we may provide additional assistance regarding this or any other matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "S. Boyd", is written over the word "Sincerely,".

Stephen E. Boyd  
Assistant Attorney General