

Arizona Daily Star®

www.dailystar.com® © www.azstarnet.com®

Published: 10.09.2007

Fourth prison in Eloy area to hold 3,060

To provide 500 jobs, boost city tax collections

By Shelley Shelton

ARIZONA DAILY STAR

Corrections Corporation of America is breaking ground this week on a new prison in Eloy to house California inmates.

The \$205 million La Palma Correctional Center will be a medium-security facility with 3,060 beds, scheduled to open in spring 2009. The company projects it will create more than 500 new jobs in the area, in addition to the three centers it already has in Eloy and two others in Florence.

Nationally, the company manages more than 9,000 prisoners housed out-of-state, she said, including 2,100 Arizona inmates housed in Oklahoma.

"Out-of-state inmate management is part of today's correction system," said Louise Grant, CCA spokeswoman. "It is becoming more commonplace as states continue to face severe overcrowding as well as no budgeted dollars for new construction growth."

The company takes on the expense of building the prison and then recoups the cost from the state paying for the care of its inmates, she said.

Prison-related jobs span a broad spectrum of career fields, including security, health services, education, administration, recreation and maintenance.

"A correctional center is truly like a small city," Grant said.

The surrounding community benefits as well, said Azeddine Bourta, general manager of the restaurant at the Flying J Travel Plaza in Eloy.

CCA in Arizona

Red Rock Correctional Center
• Address: 1750 E. Arica Road, Eloy

• Inmate capacity: 1,596

• Security level: Medium

Eloy Detention Center

• Address: 1705 E. Hanna Road, Eloy

• Inmate capacity: 1,500

• Security level: Minimum/Medium

Saguaro Correctional Center

• Address: 1250 E. Arica Road, Eloy

• Inmate capacity: 1,896

• Security level: Medium

Central Arizona Detention Center

• Address: 1155 N. Pinal Parkway, Florence

• Inmate capacity: 2,304

• Security level: Multilevel

Florence Correctional Center

• Address: 1100 Bowling Road, Florence

• Inmate capacity: 1,824

• Security level: Medium

Source: Corrections Corporation of America

At least a third of those who work at the prisons live in Eloy, and the property taxes are a huge boost for the town, he said.

"That's a good thing," he said.

Bourta said he has noticed a lot of workers from the prisons buy gas and food at the travel plaza as well.

Once the new prison is complete, CCA will pay more than \$7 million in property taxes every year on the company's six Pinal County prisons, Grant said.

Efforts to reach Eloy government officials were unsuccessful because of the Columbus Day holiday.

CCA in Arizona

Red Rock Correctional Center

- Address: 1750 E. Arica Road, Eloy
- Inmate capacity: 1,596
- Security level: Medium

Eloy Detention Center

- Address: 1705 E. Hanna Road, Eloy
- Inmate capacity: 1,500
- Security level: Minimum/Medium

Saguaro Correctional Center

- Address: 1250 E. Arica Road, Eloy
- Inmate capacity: 1,896
- Security level: Medium

Central Arizona Detention Center

- Address: 1155 N. Pinal Parkway, Florence
- Inmate capacity: 2,304
- Security level: Multilevel

Florence Correctional Center

- Address: 1100 Bowling Road, Florence
- Inmate capacity: 1,824
- Security level: Medium

Source: Corrections Corporation of America

● Contact reporter Shelley Shelton at 434-4086 or sshelton@azstarnet.com.

All content copyright © 1999-2007 AzStarNet, Arizona Daily Star and its wire services and suppliers and may not be republished without permission. All rights reserved. Any copying, redistribution, or retransmission of any of the contents of this service without the expressed written consent of Arizona Daily Star or AzStarNet is prohibited.