



Grant Parks *California State Auditor*

CONTACT: *Communications Office* | (916) 445-0255

The California Institution for Men

Its Deteriorating Infrastructure Adversely Affects Incarcerated Individuals, While Increasing the Risk of a Security Incident

Background

Opened in 1941, the California Institution for Men (CIM) in Chino is one of the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation's (CDCR's) oldest institutions and consists of four facilities, the newest of which is more than 55 years old. A 2019 assessment recommended 26 infrastructure projects totaling \$1.2 billion, including major roofing, water system, kitchen, and housing unit repairs. CDCR has funded only four of these projects and has not completed any. The California Department of Public Health also identified 38 maintenance issues in 2024 and 68 in 2025, reflecting CIM's continuing deterioration. Problems such as clogged plumbing, leaking roofs, temperature control failures, and broken windows and doors affect health, safety, and security. Infrastructure deficiencies also impede access to academic and vocational programs, reducing opportunities for individuals to earn rehabilitative credits. CDCR has published an Infrastructure Master Plan that identifies \$73 billion in necessary infrastructure investments at its institutions over the next 20 years. Although the master plan recognizes CIM as having the greatest infrastructure needs, it does not anticipate to begin planning work on CIM until July 2029.

Key Findings

- CDCR does not perform periodic facility condition assessments to evaluate the condition of its institutions' infrastructure because there is no requirement for it to do so.
- CDCR and CIM do not oversee the completion and tracking of maintenance issues in their work order database, so they have incomplete information about the infrastructure maintenance and repair work the institution needs.
 - » CIM had more open corrective work orders than other institutions we reviewed.
- From fiscal years 2020–21 through 2024–25, CDCR provided CIM with \$240 million for general maintenance, repairs, and upgrades. Although that amount was between 200 and 680 percent of the amounts CDCR invested at other comparable institutions we reviewed, it was still not sufficient for CIM to meet safety and habitability standards.
 - » The institution's deteriorating infrastructure has affected CIM's ability to provide incarcerated individuals with housing, sanitization in meal preparation, and education and rehabilitation programs. The cumulative effect of these deficiencies also increases the risk that a security incident could occur, although we identified no imminent threat to public safety.
- The spending necessary to meet legal, regulatory, and environmental requirements leaves CDCR and CIM with too little remaining funding to perform all necessary maintenance and repairs and undertake discretionary infrastructure projects, including \$140 million in unfunded special repair projects at CIM.

Key Recommendations

- The Legislature should amend state law to require CDCR to conduct regular, periodic facility condition assessments of its institutions on a rotating basis to ensure that accurate and current information is available about the condition of the institutions' infrastructure.
- CDCR should improve its ability to accurately track its maintenance backlog by providing institutions with specific guidance for effectively managing work orders in the maintenance tracking system and by conducting periodic audits to ensure that institutions are following this guidance.
- CIM should review any work orders that have been open for more than 30 days to determine the full extent of its maintenance backlog.
- CDCR should develop policies and procedures for approving institutions' special repair projects.
- CDCR should accelerate its timeline to repair or replace the deteriorated facilities at CIM by one year and begin planning this work by July 2028.

Many Aspects of CIM's Infrastructure Are Severely Deteriorated



Facility A—Visiting Area



Facility C—Restroom Ceiling



Facility A—Non-Functional Toilet



Facility B—Deteriorated Ceiling