



336 Pacific Avenue, Shafter, California 93263

May 19, 2021

Senator Hurtado,

Thank you for brokering an agreement between the City of Shafter and the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) that will allow the City to take full control of the Shafter Modified Community Correctional Facility.

When Shafter requested your assistance on this matter last year, the Department had recently informed us they were closing the facility. As you are aware, changing state criminal justice policies have resulted in dramatic reductions of low-level offenders in state prisons – many of which are located in rural cities like Shafter.

These types of facilities provide good paying jobs to local residents when open. But when they were closed, the jobs dried up and cities like Shafter were left holding the bag. Our City paid \$120,000 annually out of our general fund just to maintain the empty facility.

Thankfully, you stepped in at our request to introduce Senate Bill 385, which led to the productive conversations with CDCR officials that resulted in this remarkable agreement by which they agreed to terminate the lease and fully turn the property over to Shafter.

Now, with your assistance and with an agreement from CDCR, the City can re-imagine this property and potentially put it to use as a community college satellite facility for workforce training. Instead of being a symbol of decay and a reminder of “what was,” the facility can become a symbol of hope and future prosperity for our City. Great things can happen when the state and local governments work together.

Again, thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

Cathy L. Prout, Mayor
City of Shafter