

DIVISION OF ADULT OPERATIONS
CENTINELA STATE PRISON
P.O. BOX 731
IMPERIAL, CA 92251-0731



November 29, 2006

DEL SAYLES-OWEN
Director
Division of Partnerships
California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation

Dear Del,

I am writing to express Centinela State Prison's support of the Alternatives to Violence Program for State Prison inmates. This important program has helped our inmates to interrupt the cycle of violence that increasingly affects the number of prisoners incarcerated within our California correctional institutions.

I understand that AVP is in the application process for a grant which will allow for the hiring of an Outreach Coordinator in areas of the state where recruiting volunteers to work in the prison setting is the most challenging. That is descriptive of Centinela State Prison, which is located in the desert community of Imperial Valley. Our institution would greatly benefit from the addition of an AVP Outreach Coordinator.

Sadly, as correctional professionals, we see firsthand how inmates recycle through the prison environment over and over again because they lack the life skills necessary to keep them functioning in our society. These programs require a strong volunteer base to be successful and thrive. We currently offer the Alternatives to Violence Workshops as often as we can to our inmate population, but are unable to keep up with the increasing demand for this dynamic program due to the unavailability of local volunteer facilitators. It is our desire to expand the offering of these workshops from our current frequency of approximately one per month.

We fully support the efforts of the Alternatives to Violence Program in affecting change in the lives of our incarcerated prisoners. We look forward to the opportunity to continue to work with this dedicated group of volunteers at Centinela in the years to come. Thank you for your consideration of their application for this grant. If you have any questions regarding our support for this program, you may contact Deavonne Long, Administrative Assistant, at (760) 337-7601.

Sincerely,

Original Signed By

V. M. ALMAGER
Warden (A)
Centinela State Prison

CC: Pat Hardy, AVP