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The California Prison Industry Board Approves Overtime Pay for Offender Workforce

FOLSOM – At an emergency board meeting on April 1, 2020, the California Prison Industry Board unanimously approved overtime pay for offenders working in the California Prison Industry Authority’s (CALPIA) enterprises.

“Due to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19), our mission critical operations are going above and beyond their daily duties and stepping up to help prevent the spread of this virus,” said CALPIA’s General Manager Scott Walker. “If an incarcerated individual chooses to work overtime, we want to ensure they are compensated.”

CALPIA’s mission critical enterprises continue to operate during the pandemic which include Healthcare Facilities Maintenance, Fabric, Laundry, Food and Agriculture, Transportation, and Cleaning Products. Staff and offenders have been working extended hours to help meet the needs to produce materials and supplies.

CALPIA started producing hand sanitizer and cloth barrier masks, which are being distributed to offenders and staff at all CDCR locations.

The compensation of overtime is at one and a half (1 ½) times offenders’ normal pay rate and is completed on a voluntary basis. The approved overtime compensation is effective as of April 1.

Offenders who work in any CALPIA enterprise or program will receive this type of compensation for any work done beyond their normal work hours.

“I feel like my work has a purpose and I am making a difference in helping to save lives,” said Danielle Johnson who works at CALPIA’s Fabric enterprise at the California Institution for Women. “With the overtime I can provide the essentials for myself with no help and send money to my children.”

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