

ERIN HANNIGAN

District 1, (707) 553-5363

MONICA BROWN

District 2, Vice-Chair, (707) 784-3031

WANDA WILLIAMS

District 3, Chair Pro-Tem (707) 784-6136

JOHN M. VASQUEZ

District 4, Chair, (707) 784-6129

MITCH MASHBURN

District 5, (707) 784-6030

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**SOLANO
COUNTY****BILL EMLEN**County Administrator
(707) 784-6100675 Texas Street, Suite 6500
Fairfield, CA 94533-6342
Fax (707) 784-6665www.solanocounty.com

March 13, 2023

The Honorable John Garamendi
United States House of Representatives
2004 Rayburn HOB
Washington D.C. 20515**RE: FY 2024 Congressionally Directed Spending Request for Primary Emergency Operations & Emergency Communications Centers in Solano County**

Dear Congressman Garamendi:

On behalf of the Solano County Board of Supervisors, I'm writing to urge you to seek \$5 million in Fiscal Year 2024 Congressionally Directed Spending for Solano County's Primary Emergency Operations & Emergency Communications Centers project. This critically needed funding would help Solano County fund architectural and engineering design plans for the construction of a consolidated facility that would house both a new Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and a new Emergency Communications Center (Solano Dispatch).

Solano County's current EOC and Solano Dispatch are located in Fairfield in a high-risk area for flood, wildfire, and earthquake. Furthermore, the campus is located in close proximity to a commercial railway, increasing risk to the structures and personnel in the event of derailment or hazardous materials release. Both structures were impacted by extreme winter storm events in the 1990s and 2000s and are at increased risk of damage from an earthquake due to their age.

Solano County's EOC serves as the primary nerve center for the Operational Area providing mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery services to all residents of the County. It is a "warm EOC" that can accommodate up to 48 personnel during activations. The most recent significant activations include atmospheric river events (in 2023 and 2021), the LNU Lightning Complex fire (2020), COVID-19 (2020 – present), civil unrest (2020), multiple Public Safety Power Shut-off events (2019), winter storm events (2019 and 2017), the Atlas fire (2017), and the Wragg fire (2015).

With regard to Solano Dispatch, the current facility is a partially consolidated, multi-discipline center that provides dispatch services for three law enforcement agencies, seven fire agencies, and a number of County departments, including animal control and probation. They are the backup 9-1-1 answering point for the other five PSAPs in Solano County and work with Region II as the resource ordering point for mutual aid fire requests in and out of the Operational Area. Additionally, Solano Dispatch takes over large fire incidents from the other PSAPs, making Solano Dispatch responsible for providing critical life-saving services to the entire county.

Moving forward, it is a high priority for Solano County to build a new, resilient, consolidated EOC/Emergency Communications facility outside of the flood hazard area in order to prevent disruption in critical life-saving services. Moreover, new construction would increase resiliency in the event of an earthquake and would allow the space to be designed with a focus on maintaining personnel safety while meeting basic needs of staff during extended activations. In addition, plans for a new facility will include adequate parking to support EOC activations and would allow the space to accommodate

Honorable John Garamendi

March 13, 2023

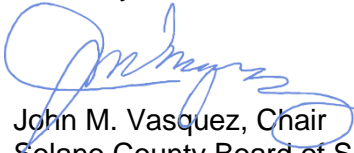
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expansion in staffing to support the increasing population and further consolidation of dispatch services.

Finally, I'd like to note that the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) is on record in support of Solano County's consolidated EOC/Dispatch project. Accordingly, Cal OES has provided the requisite documentation necessary for this project to qualify for funding under the Fiscal Year 2024 Department of Homeland Security Appropriations bill.

Thank you for your support and for your consideration of this critically important community project request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John M. Vasquez", is written over a circular blue stamp or seal.

John M. Vasquez, Chair
Solano County Board of Supervisors

CC:

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein, U.S. Senator

The Honorable Alex Padilla, U.S. Senator

The Honorable Mike Thompson, U.S. Representative

The Honorable Bill Dodd, California State Senator

The Honorable Lori D. Wilson, California State Assemblymember

The Honorable Solano County Board of Supervisors

Tim Flanagan, Chief Information Officer, Solano County

Karen Lange, SYASL Partners