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BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**SOLANO
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March 9, 2023

The Honorable John Garamendi
United States House of Representatives
2004 Rayburn HOB
Washington D.C. 20515**RE: SUPPORT, FY 2024 Congressionally Directed Spending Request for Radio Infrastructure & Interoperability Improvements in Solano County**

Dear Congressman Garamendi:

On behalf of the Solano County Board of Supervisors, I am writing to urge you to seek \$8 million in Fiscal Year 2024 Congressionally Directed Spending for Solano County's Radio Infrastructure and Interoperability Improvements project. This critically needed project funding would help Solano County secure a unified, modern communications system that would link all of the County's police, fire, and emergency response agencies into a single network and allow for interoperable communications among dozens of local, regional, and State agencies.

Solano County's antiquated VHF public safety radio system severely limits communication among police and fire agencies in Solano County and does not meet the needs of modern emergency response. Accordingly, Solano County is pursuing a modern P25 system upgrade, which would deliver the interoperable and reliable communications the County needs to respond to emergencies and protect the lives and property of its residents.

In addition to enhancing the usability and effectiveness of radio communications within the County, the proposed new system would implement a DOJ mandate for encrypted communications and allow for interoperable communications among regional jurisdictions and State agencies. In sum, this project will enable dozens of cities and counties, along with State and Federal agency partners, such as CAL Fire, CAL OES and Travis Air Force Base, to communicate seamlessly and support each other in times of critical need.

With regard to the project budget, federal funds would be spent on new communications tower sites and enhancements to support the necessary new technology, with several sites requiring grounding, shelter, power, and tower upgrades to implement the network. Funds also would be spent on P25 system equipment and microwave backhaul network equipment that would connect the radio sites together. In addition to federal funding, \$4 million in local funding – including \$1.5 million in County General Fund dollars – is committed to this project.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John M. Vasquez".

John M. Vasquez, Chair
Solano County Board of Supervisors

Honorable John Garamendi

March 9, 2023

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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