

**BOARD OF
SUPERVISORS**

County Administration
Building
105 East Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
Telephone: (805) 568-2190
www.countyofsb.org

**COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA**

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June 6, 2018

The Honorable Adam Gray
Chair, Assembly Governmental Organization Committee
State Capitol, Room 3152
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 821 (Jackson) Emergency Notification: County Jurisdiction – SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Gray:

I am writing on behalf of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors to state our support for SB 821 (Jackson), which would authorize the County to develop a mechanism to access the contact information of resident account holders through the records of public utilities, water service, waste, recycling services, or other property-related service providers for the sole purpose of enrolling county residents in a county-operated public emergency warning system.

Santa Barbara County has suffered devastating losses that resulted in property damage, disrupting thousands of lives, businesses and government services due to the Thomas Fire. The Thomas Fire burned approximately 281,893 acres becoming the largest wildfire in modern California history before it was fully contained on January 12, 2018. The Thomas Fire destroyed at least 1,063 structures, while damaging 280 others becoming the seventh-most destructive wildfire in state history. After weeks of wildfires, the Santa Barbara County continued to suffer devastating mudslides, which created tremendous loss resulting in wide spread debris flows, property loss and multiple fatalities.

Due to the recent climate related disasters in the County, it is critical to reinforce the need for a robust emergency notification system. When the Thomas Fire began to burn in the County of Santa Barbara, *less than 15%* of the County's residents had signed up to receive county-generated cell phone and email alerts.

Accurate contact information is vital in helping to notify people of immediate danger and key to improving outcomes during disasters.

For these reasons, the County is in support of SB 821 (Jackson). If you have questions about the Board's position, please contact the County's Legislative Coordinator, Dennis Bozanich at 805-568-3403 or dbozanich@countyofsb.org.

Sincerely,



Cliff Berg
Legislative Advocate
Governmental Advocates, Inc.

cc: Kenton Stanhope, Counsel, Assembly Governmental Organization Committee
Jared Yoshiki, Counsel, Assembly Republican Caucus
Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson, Author
Assemblymember Monique Limon, 37th Assembly District
Assemblymember Jordan Cunningham, 35th Assembly District
Members, County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors
Mona Miyasato, County Executive Officer
Dennis Bozanich, Legislative Coordinator, County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors