

**BOARD OF
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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

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May 24, 2018

The Honorable Ricardo Lara
Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee
State Senate, State Capitol, Room 5050
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: *SB 833 (McGuire) Emergency Alerts: Evacuation Orders: Operators – Support if Amended*

Dear Senator Ricardo Lara:

I am writing on behalf of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors to state our support if amended position on SB 833 (McGuire), consistent with the California State Association of Counties' (CSAC) proposed comments outlined in the CSAC letter dated April 18th.

SB 833 (McGuire) would require the red alert system to incorporate a variety of notification resources and developing technologies that may be tailored to the circumstances and geography of the underlying evacuation. The bill would require a local government agency or state agency that uses the federal Wireless Emergency Alert (WEA) system to alert a specified area of an evacuation order to use the term "red alert" in the alert and notify OES of the alert.

Although the County appreciates the section of the bill that applies funding to local emergency management offices to fund the mandate which would require every county emergency management office to become a registered WEA operator, the County is concerned that SB 833 requires a local government that uses WEA to both use the term "*red alert*" in the alert language and notify OES after an alert is sent so that the state can utilize local digital signs, radio, television, focused texts or other technologies, in addition to the WEA for notification purposes. This section of the bill would specifically oppose the preemption of local control that the Board of Supervisor's adopted a 2018 Legislative Platform, and the County believes that local jurisdictions ought to be able to use the best language to meet emergency situations.

Additionally, with the devastation of the Santa Barbara County Thomas Fire in December 2017 and the destructive mudslides shortly after, the County has a concern with the provision of the bill that requires the state, upon notification of a local government, to utilize additional notification systems to alert the targeted area. In an emergency situation, the County is strongly concerned that the state does not have the capability or the proximity to the emergency to fully understand the conditions present to send messages back down to the local level. While this might be appropriate upon request, we are concerned that a requirement could complicate an already complex process.

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

Governmental Advocates, Inc.

cc:

Members, Senate Appropriations Committee

Debra Cooper, Consultant, Senate Appropriations Committee

Richard Paul, Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus

Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson, 13th Senate District

Assemblymember Jordan Cunningham, 35th Assembly District

Assemblymember Monique Limon, 37th Assembly District

Dennis Bozanich, Legislative Coordinator, County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisor