



**COUNTY OF LAKE**  
**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

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March 10, 2020

Governor Gavin Newsom  
1303 10th Street, Suite 1173  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Newsom,

First, we greatly appreciate your taking into consideration the needs of the County of Lake, and all geographically isolated and impoverished Counties, in every decision you make, as well as your continual work to set policies that lift up vulnerable individuals and communities.

We are writing to express the County of Lake's continued support for the development of the North State Public Safety Training Center being proposed by the City of Yuba City. The facility, once built, will serve firefighting personnel, law enforcement and first responders, as well as other governmental and non-governmental disaster workers, in Northern California.

Lake County is uniquely aware of the critical nature of emergency preparedness. Our Board is informed the proposed facility will help our personnel maintain their certifications, and more importantly keep their mission critical skills at operational readiness level. This will be made possible with proposed training venues such as: a 25-, 50- and 100-yard indoor shooting range for law enforcement; a residential and commercial burn building; confined space rescue; hazardous materials; wildland firefighting; high- and low-angle rescue; SWAT/TEMS training; search and rescue; use of force training; railroad mitigation; and utility mitigation components.

In the past, local government agency budgets could support sending personnel to necessary and required training in Central and Southern California. Unfortunately, due to the 2008 nationwide economic collapse, fiscal uncertainty has threatened training budgets throughout the State, including for first responder staffing and services.

Funding made available through the California Specialized Training Institute (CSTI) and other State agencies have also experienced reductions due to cuts to federal programs. Courses offered have been reduced, and consolidated at CSTI's San Luis Obispo area campus. Northern California local agencies do not consistently have adequate budgets to send personnel to training sites in San Luis Obispo or Bakersfield.

Logistically, it is almost impossible for CSTI, California OES, and other agencies to plan for and provide training opportunities within the Northern California region without a fixed public safety training center to work from. The North State Public Safety Training Center would provide a home base for their important and required mission of maintaining critical training, while minimizing personnel and travel-related costs.

Similarly, over the past two years, the Commission on Peace Officers Standards & Training (POST) has experienced a \$6 million reduction in funding available for training-related reimbursements to law enforcement agencies. Per a recent POST study, 50 percent of all training costs reimbursed by POST were for travel-related expenses.

POST has been emphasizing a regional approach to training, in an effort to make training available to agencies and to reduce travel-related expenses. A North State Public Safety Training Center can do just that, and will benefit dozens of Northern California law enforcement agencies.

Given the frequency and severity of recent natural disasters, training must be a priority. Failing to provide appropriate and required training and certification maintenance for special response teams will have a detrimental effect on the ability of local governments to respond to regional and Statewide natural and man-made disasters.

The County of Lake is in full support of the proposed North State Public Safety Training Center. It would provide a more proximal facility, facilitating robust training for our personnel, while minimizing travel-related expenses. This project will be a significant benefit to the region's first responders and a huge investment into the region that will reap benefits for the public for years to come.

Please consider allocating funding to bring this project to fruition. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully Submitted,

**COUNTY OF LAKE**

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Moke Simon  
CHAIR, Board of Supervisors