



**COUNTY OF LAKE  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

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March 19, 2019

Senator Jim Nielsen  
State Capitol, Room 5064  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Senator Nielsen,

On behalf of Lake County, I am writing to express our support for the development of the North State Regional Training and Emergency Operations Center being proposed by the Yuba City Fire Department. 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.

The training features of the proposed facility will benefit our personnel on maintaining their certifications, but more importantly keeping their mission critical skills at operational readiness level. This will be made possible with proposed features such as a 25-, 50- and 100-yard shooting range for law enforcement; a residential and commercial burn building; and training spaces for such areas as confined space rescue, hazardous materials, wildland fires; high- and low- angle rescues, SWAT/TEMS training, search and rescue, railroad mitigation and utility mitigation. Additional elements will also be incorporated to assist in meeting training mandates and requirements for numerous governmental and non-governmental agencies.

In the past, local government agency budgets had the funding to send personnel to necessary and required training in Central and Southern California. Unfortunately, due to the 2008 nationwide economic collapse, training budgets became a casualty for local government agencies re-adjusting their bottom line dollars in order to maintain first responder staffing and services during the fiscal uncertainty. Over the past 10 years, there have been significant impacts to the financial ability of public safety agencies to get their first responders trained and to maintain minimum certifications.

Funding made available through the California Specialized Training Institute (CSTI) and other State agencies has also experienced reductions as Federal agency sources cut back on program funding that was to be directed back to the states and local agencies. The reduction of CSTI's funding for training of public safety first responders has been reduced and the number of courses have been cut back and consolidated at CSTI's San Luis Obispo area campus. The Northern California local agencies don't have adequate budgets to send people 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 Regional Training and Emergency Operations Center would provide them with a location for their important and required mission-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 funds available for training-related reimbursement expenses to law enforcement agencies. Per a recent POST study, 50% 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. North State Regional Training and Emergency Operations Center can do just that and help support dozens of Northern California firefighting and law enforcement agencies and first responders at all levels of government.

Lacking the ability to provide appropriate and required training and maintaining certification for special response teams will have a detrimental impact on the ability of local government within our area to respond to natural and manmade disasters within the region and within the State.

We are in full support of the proposed North State Regional Training and Emergency Operations Center which would provide our agency a localized facility we will be able to frequently utilize for the training of our personnel and minimize our travel-related expenses at the same time. 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.

Sincerely,

LAKE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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Tina Scott, Chair