

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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March 16, 2026

The Honorable David Valadao
U.S. House of Representatives
2465 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Valadao,

I am writing on behalf of the Kern County Board of Supervisors to express our strong support for community project funding for the Kern County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) energy and communications project. This investment is essential to protect public safety and strengthen the reliability of the County's emergency response infrastructure.

Kern County's emergency communications system depends on equipment that is now well beyond its service life, including a backup generator that is more than 40 years old. This generator poses a significant risk of failure during major power outages, which would jeopardize the County's ability to maintain uninterrupted 911 operations. Replacing this unit is critical to ensuring that law enforcement, fire services, and emergency medical responders can continue to communicate during wildfires, earthquakes, severe weather events, and other large-scale incidents.

The project also includes the acquisition of a modern Computer-Aided Dispatch platform. Upgrading to a current system will improve call processing and enhance real-time information sharing between dispatchers and field personnel. It will strengthen coordination between the Kern County Sheriff's Office and the Bakersfield Police Department by allowing both agencies to access shared visibility of active calls and available resources. These improvements will reduce response times, support coordinated decision-making, and increase the overall resilience of the County's emergency communications network.

Thank you for your continued leadership and commitment to public safety.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Phillip Peters", with a long, sweeping underline.

Phillip Peters, Chairman
Kern County Board of Supervisors

cc: Kern County General Services Division
Kern County Fire Department
Kern County Sheriff's Office
Townsend Public Affairs