

EAST CONTRA COSTA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

Brian Helmick
Fire Chief



SERVING THE COMMUNITIES OF:

*Bethel Island
Brentwood
Byron*

*Discovery Bay
Knightsen
Morgan Territory
Oakley*

September 19, 2019

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
State Capitol, First Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SB 438 (Hertzberg) – Emergency Medical Services: dispatch
Request for Signature**

Dear Governor Newsom:

On behalf of the East Contra Costa Fire Protection District (ECCFPD) I write to respectfully request your signature SB 438. This bill prohibits a public agency from outsourcing its local emergency dispatch services to a private, for-profit entity.

ECCFPD is a rural funded fire district that protect approximately 249 square miles and over 114,000 residents. The district provides firefighting personnel and emergency medical services to the residents and businesses of multiple cities and townships. This bill will ensure that local governments can determine the appropriate level of emergency response with its community and explicitly protects a government's right and obligation to receive and process emergency calls to ensure effective, efficient and rapid deployment of emergency response apparatus.

Privatization results in an inherent pressure: the demand to turn a profit while caring for people in their most vulnerable moments. This bill will ensure that the safety of all Californians is in the hands of a public agency, ensuring the best possible standard of emergency care.

Again, we thank you for your consideration and respectfully request your signature on this important piece of legislation.

Sincerely,



Brian Helmick
Fire Chief, ECCFPD

Cc; Senator Bob Hertzberg
Senator Steve Glazer
Assemblymember Jim Frazier