

Brian Helmick
Fire Chief



SERVING THE COMMUNITIES OF:

*Bethel Island
Brentwood
Byron*

*Discovery Bay
Knightsen
Morgan Territory
Oakley*

8 August, 2019

The Honorable Robert Hertzberg
California State Senate
State Capitol Building, Room 313
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 438 (Hertzberg) – Emergency Medical Services (**SUPPORT**)

Dear Senator Hertzberg:

On behalf of the East Contra Costa Fire Protection District (ECCFPD) we are pleased to support SB 438. This bill will prohibit a public agency from delegating, assigning, or contracting for 911 call processing or emergency notification duties regarding the dispatch of emergency response resources unless the delegation or assignment is to, or the contract is with, another public agency or made pursuant to a joint powers agreement or cooperative agreement.

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 the Cities of Brentwood and Oakley and to the Township of Discovery Bay, Bethel Island, Knightsen, Byron, Marsh Creek, and Morgan Territory.

Senate Bill 438 prohibits a public agency from outsourcing its local emergency dispatch services to a private, for-profit entity. 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 are happy to support SB 438, and thank you for all of your work on this important policy issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Brian Helmick".

Brian Helmick
Fire Chief