

COUNTY OF EL DORADO

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JAMES S. MITRISIN
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November 17, 2015

The Honorable Jerry Brown
Governor, State of California
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Thank You for Permanent Funding of County Veteran's Service Offices

Dear Governor Brown,

On behalf of the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors, I would like to express our appreciation for your approval, via the State Budget, of the permanent local assistance funding level of \$5.6 million for the county veteran service offices, beginning with the 2015 Budget Act.

For the last two budget cycles county veteran service offices have been receiving \$5.6 million in one-time funding. While this was much appreciated and put to good use, the temporary nature of the funding made it difficult to make long term plans and train staff. The permanent \$5.6 million funding level will allow the County to plan for the future by enabling it to hire, train, and retain skilled veteran's service representatives.

Most importantly, these funds will improve the lives of the County's veterans and bring an economic impact to the community. At the same time, the funds demonstrate the State's commitment to acknowledging the sacrifices and service the veterans have given.

In Fiscal Year 2013-14, county veteran's service officers statewide brought in approximately \$546 million in new and recurring federal benefits for California veterans.

The County's constituents, both veteran and non-veteran, have placed a high priority on services to help veterans access their benefits. They recognize the sacrifice these brave men and women have made in service to the country. This \$5.6 million annual Local Assistance funding will help the County provide improved services to veterans and their families.

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The County has used this new funding to hire one new full time veterans service representative and one extra help technician. The new funding also enables the County to provide additional benefit services. For example, the County expanded its local outreach efforts, upgraded equipment, and established future expansion plans to increase its presence in the South Lake Tahoe region. In the near future, the County will oversee and manage a new veteran's service representative intern program. Your funding has enabled the County to continue to provide exemplary services to the veteran's community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "B. Veerkamp". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Brian K. Veerkamp, Chair
County of El Dorado Board of Supervisors

cc: County of El Dorado Board of Supervisors
Pete Conaty & Associates
William E. Schultz, Veteran Affairs Interim Director
County of El Dorado, Department of Veteran Affairs