



FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION OF SANTA BARBARA COUNTY



August 22, 2018

SENT VIA EMAIL

Honorable Supervisor Das Williams, Chair
County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street, Fourth Floor
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

RE: Public Safety Dispatch Center Report

The Santa Barbara County Fire Chiefs Association membership strongly supports the creation of a Regional Fire/Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Dispatch Center. When operational, this Dispatch Center will provide the opportunity for our communities to enjoy the response of the closest, most appropriate resource regardless of jurisdiction.

Unfortunately, this is not possible under our current arrangement of several small dispatch silos. Frequent, large-scale emergency incidents have highlighted our current deficiencies in this area. While we often share resources, it is not done promptly due to the multiple layers that exist in our dispatch communication system.

Combining Fire/EMS into a single dispatch center would provide efficiencies in Emergency Medical Dispatch, EMS resource allocation, Fire Department resource allocation, and substantially improve command and coordination of multi-agency incident response.

Finally, we firmly believe that when our citizens call 911 because of a medical emergency, they should receive pre-arrival Emergency Medical Dispatch instructions using prescribed protocols as outlined by the Local Emergency Services Agency. A unified dispatch center environment would provide this for every citizen in our County regardless of where they live or work.

Respectfully,

Ray Navarro, Fire Chief
President
Fire Chief Association of Santa Barbara County

Cc: Mona Miyasato