



September 5, 2018

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The Honorable Edmund G. Brown, Jr.
Governor, State of California
State Capitol Building, First Floor
Sacramento, California 95814

Re: SB 833 (McGuire) – Office of Emergency Services: guidelines: alert and warning systems
Request for Signature – As enrolled August 31, 2018

Dear Governor Brown:

The California State Association of Counties (CSAC), representing all 58 of California's counties, respectfully requests your signature on Senate Bill 833 (McGuire), which would require the Office of Emergency Services (OES) to develop voluntary guidelines and practices for alerting and warning the public in the event of an emergency. It also would allow OES to use the voluntary guidelines as application conditions for distributing grants, and would require OES to provide training about the federal Wireless Emergency Alert System (WEA) and Emergency Alert System (EAS) to county emergency managers.

CSAC worked very closely with the author's office to develop a bill that improves emergency alert and notification procedures state wide. The development of effective emergency response strategies is essential to all healthy and safe communities. In the event of an emergency, the strategies and systems used become critical, and can and do save lives. The provisions in this bill will lead to the development of valuable information and techniques that will improve outcomes in disasters. In addition, the provisions regarding training in WEA and EAS will help counties effectively incorporate valuable communication tools into their own local emergency notification processes. Emergency notification systems are not one size fits all. The provisions of this bill reflect that concept and will lead to the development and improvement of emergency notification procedures across the state. CSAC will help ensure that urban, rural and suburban county interests will be represented during the development of the voluntary guidelines.

All disasters start and end local. Local governments must have many tools and methods of emergency communication available in order to improve outcomes in disasters and save lives. It is for these reasons that CSAC is pleased to support SB 833 and respectfully requests your signature on this important measure. Please do not hesitate to contact my staff, Cara Martinson at cmartinson@counties.org, or 916-327-7500 ext. 504, if you have any questions regarding our position.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Graham Knaus".

Graham Knaus
Executive Director

cc: The Honorable Mike McGuire, California State Senate
Tom Dyer, Chief Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of Governor Brown