

CITY OF YUBA CITY
STAFF REPORT

Date: January 21, 2020
To: Honorable Mayor & Members of the City Council
From: Administration
Presentation by: Michael Rock, City Manager

Summary

Subject: Letter of Support for North State Public Safety Training Center
Recommendation: Authorize the Mayor to sign a letter of support for the development of a Regional Public Safety Training Center in Yuba City to benefit North State First Responders
Fiscal Impact: None.

Purpose:

Senator Jim Nielson is requesting support for a \$15 million one-time allocation in the 2020-2021 California State Budget to fund a Regional Public Safety Training Center that would provide a much needed professional training of first responders throughout Northern California.

Background:

In the past, local government agency budgets had the funding to send personnel to necessary and required training in Central and Southern California. Unfortunately, due to the 2008 nationwide economic collapse, training budgets became a casualty to local government agencies readjusting their bottom dollar in order to maintain first responder staffing and services during the fiscal uncertainty. Over the past 10 years, there have been significant impacts to the financial ability of public safety agencies in the North State to get their first responders trained and to maintain minimum certifications.

The proposed North State Public Safety Training Center would be located in Yuba City at the City owned property adjacent to Fire Station No. 4 on Ohleyer Road. The facility, once built, would serve firefighting personnel, law enforcement and first responders, as well as other governmental and non-governmental disaster workers, in Northern California.

The training features of the proposed facility will benefit regional personnel on maintaining their certifications, but more importantly keeping their mission critical skills at operational readiness level. This will be made possible with proposed training venues such as a 25-, 50- and 100-yard indoor shooting range for law enforcement; a residential and commercial burn building; confined space rescue; hazardous materials; wildland firefighting; high- and low-angle rescue; SWAT/TEMS training; search and rescue; use of force training; railroad mitigation and utility mitigation components to name a few.

Analysis:

The proposed multi-purpose facility would be the first of its kind, and the only regional facility north of Sacramento available to emergency responders. It would provide support and resources for not only

Northern California agencies, but for the entire state. This Center will serve firefighting and law enforcement agencies, as well as other governmental and non-governmental first responders in Northern California.

Senator Nielsen requests that the letter of support be forwarded to his office no later than January 31, 2020

Fiscal Impact:

There is no fiscal impact for supporting the development of a regional training center. If the training center is developed, the City will benefit from having a local facility available for our public safety officers, plus an economic benefit to the community-at-large from other agencies sending their staff to the Yuba City facility.

Alternatives:

Do not approve the Letter of Support.

Recommendation:

Authorize the Mayor to sign a letter of support for the development of a Regional Public Safety Training center to benefit North State First Responders.

Attachments:

- A. Draft Letter of Support

Prepared by:

/s/ Terrel Locke

Terrel Locke
Assistant to the City Manager

Submitted by:

/s/ Michael Rock

Michael Rock
City Manager

ATTACHMENT A

Letter of Support

City Council



January 21, 2020

Governor Gavin Newsom
1303 10th Street, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Newsom,

I am writing to express my support for the development of the North State Public Safety Training Center being proposed by the City of Yuba City. The facility, once built, will serve firefighting personnel, law enforcement and first responders, as well as other governmental and non-governmental disaster workers, in Northern California.

The training features of the proposed facility will benefit regional personnel on maintaining their certifications, but more importantly keeping their mission critical skills at operational readiness level. This will be made possible with proposed training venues such as a 25-, 50- and 100-yard indoor shooting range for law enforcement; a residential and commercial burn building; confined space rescue; hazardous materials; wildland firefighting; high- and low-angle rescue; SWAT/TEMS training; search and rescue; use of force training; railroad mitigation and utility mitigation components to name a few.

In the past, local government agency budgets had the funding to send personnel to necessary and required training in Central and Southern California. Unfortunately, due to the 2008 nationwide economic collapse, training budgets became a casualty to local government agencies readjusting their bottom dollar in order to maintain first responder staffing and services during the fiscal uncertainty. Over the past 10 years, there have been significant impacts to the financial ability of public safety agencies in the North State to get their first responders trained and to maintain minimum certifications.

Funding made available through the California Specialized Training Institute (CSTI) and other State agencies has also experienced reductions as Federal agency sources cutback on program funding that was to be directed back to the states and local agencies. The reduction of CSTI's funding for training of public safety first responders has been reduced and the number of courses have been cut back and consolidated at CSTI's San Luis Obispo area campus. Northern California local agencies don't have adequate budgets to send personnel to training sites in San Luis Obispo or Bakersfield.

Logistically, it is almost impossible for CSTI, California OES, and other agencies to plan for and provide training opportunities within the Northern California region without a fixed public safety training center to work from. The North State Public Safety Training Center would provide them a location for their important and required mission of maintaining critical training while minimizing personnel and travel related costs.

Similarly, over the past two years, the Commission on Peace Officers Standards & Training (POST) has experienced a \$6 million reduction in funds available for training-related reimbursement expenses to law enforcement agencies. Per a recent POST study, 50 percent of all training costs reimbursed by POST were for travel-related expenses. POST has been emphasizing a regional approach to training in an effort to make training available to agencies and to reduce travel-related expenses. A North State Public Safety Training Center can do just that and help support dozens of Northern California law enforcement agencies at all levels of government.

Lacking the ability to provide appropriate and required training and maintaining certification for special response teams will have a detrimental impact on the ability of local government within our area to respond to natural and man-made disasters within the region and within the State.

My business is in full support of the proposed North State Public Safety Training Center, which will provide regional agencies a localized facility to be able to frequently utilize for the training of personnel and minimize our travel-related expenses at the same time. This project will be a significant benefit to the region's first responders and a huge investment into the region that will reap benefits for the public for years to come.

Please consider allocating funding to bring this project to fruition. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Shon Harris, Mayor
City of Yuba City

Cc: Senator Jim Nielsen
1110 Civic Center Blvd. Suite 202-A
Yuba City CA 95993