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LANCE M. LARSON
Director of Legislative Affairs

May 1, 2009

The Honorable Bill Emmerson
California State Assembly
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: **AB 1406 (Emmerson)** - As Amended 4/2/09 - **SUPPORT**

Dear Assemblyman Emmerson:

The San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors is pleased to support AB 1406. This bill would allow the San Bernardino County Employees' Retirement Association (SBCERA) to retain highly skilled and qualified employees.

As you know, current law allows SBCERA to hire their own administrators, management employees, investment officers and legal counsel rather than having to hire from the list of applicants available under the civil service process. However, existing law does not include this quick and efficient hiring process for the supervisors and employees with specialized training and knowledge who serve the tens of thousands of active and retired members and their beneficiaries. Unfortunately, our Board of Retirement is experiencing a high turnover rate with their supervisors and employees with this specialized training and knowledge. The continuous instability for these positions are hurting the overall service levels that SBCERA is able to provide to their members and beneficiaries.

AB 1406, amending the 2006 legislation that established SBCERA as a special district, would simply allow SBCERA to directly hire front-line supervisors and employees with specialized training and knowledge in order to prevent the constant turnover that is occurring within the current hiring process.

For these reasons, the Board of Supervisors of San Bernardino County joins with the San Bernardino County Safety Employees' Benefit Association, the San Bernardino County Public Employees Association and the San Bernardino County Professional Firefighters Association (Local 935) in support of AB 1406. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Lance Larson, the County's Director of Legislative Affairs at (909) 387-4821. The Board thanks you for your attention in this matter.

Sincerely,

GARY C. OVITT
Chairman, Board of Supervisors

The mission of the government of the County of San Bernardino is to satisfy its customers by providing service that promotes the health, safety, well being, and quality of life of its residents according to the County Charter, general laws, and the will of the people it serves.