



County Administrative Office
Governmental & Legislative Affairs

Josh Candelaria
Director

May 25, 2016

The Honorable Phil Ting
Chair, Assembly Budget Committee
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: December 2nd Terrorist Attack Budget Request

Dear Chairman Ting:

On behalf of the County of San Bernardino, we respectfully request your consideration for a budget proposal to allow the reimbursement of all reasonable costs incurred that are not determined eligible for reimbursement under the California Disaster Assistance Act for the December 2nd Terrorist Attack.

As you are aware, on the morning of December 2, 2015, in San Bernardino, California, a horrific terrorist attack occurred. Fourteen people were killed – including 13 San Bernardino County government employees. Thousands more in our community were victimized and traumatized.

County and city first responders immediately took action to protect those in harm's way. The response was well-orchestrated and well-executed and likely saved many lives. In the wake of the tragedy, other immediate decisions had to be made to ensure the safety of the public and County employees, while ensuring continuity of government. The County and City of San Bernardino, and other responding agencies collectively spent more than \$19 million in response to the terrorist attack of December 2nd.

The County is currently sponsoring legislation, SB 1385 (Leyva), to increase California Disaster Assistance Act funding, the only available state reimbursement, for this incident from the normal 75% to 100% of costs deemed eligible by the California Office of Emergency Services (CalOES).

At this point, CalOES has not made an official determination of what incurred costs are considered eligible for reimbursement. The unprecedented nature of this terrorist attack has proven challenging for the organization, which has been tasked with reimbursing local agencies for terrorist-related costs.

During and in response to the terrorist attack, the County took extraordinary measures to protect the safety and well-being of our employees, including a two-day evacuation of non-essential County services, temporary work location arrangements and the reconfiguration of workspace once occupied by victims of the incident and one of the perpetrators.

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It is anticipated that some of these measures may not fall within the normal parameters established by the California Disaster Assistance Act for response to a typical disaster (fire, flood or earthquake) due to the unparalleled nature of this terrifying attack and the general unfamiliarity the state department has in providing reimbursement for these kinds of incidents.

For the above reasons, we respectfully request your consideration for a budget proposal to allow the reimbursement of all reasonable costs incurred that are not determined eligible for reimbursement under California Disaster Assistance Act. Costs include safety evacuations, temporary accommodations, security enhancements and employee mental health and well-being measures which are estimated at \$11 million. If you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact Josh Candelaria, Director of Governmental and Legislative Affairs at (909) 387-4821 or jcandelaria@sbcounty.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James Ramos', with a stylized flourish at the end.

JAMES RAMOS
Board of Supervisors Chairman
Third District Supervisor
County of San Bernardino

c: Honorable Members and Consultants, Assembly Budget Committee
San Bernardino County Legislative Delegation