



June 23, 2009

Honorable Alex Padilla, Chair
Senate Committee on Energy, Utilities and Communications
State Capitol, Room 2195
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 912 - Support

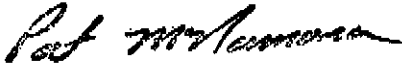
Dear Senator Padilla:


The Riverside Sheriffs' Association, representing 3,200 rank and file deputy sheriffs, sheriffs, deputy probation officers, law enforcement investigators, counselors, coroners and bailiffs -- the entire law enforcement team in Riverside County - supports AB 912.

The number "911" is the primary emergency telephone number in the state, and there is a surcharge fee that is imposed annually to provide the revenues thought to be sufficient to fund the system. However, administrative, operating, and maintenance costs are appropriated by the Legislature for the emergency service. This measure will change and increase the percentage rate range to cover all aspects of the system.

Regarding the use of the emergency "911" system, there has been a major increase in the number of calls over the last two years -- an increase so large that the Department of the California Highway Patrol, according to Legislative figures, receives approximately 750,000 "911" calls per month. In fact when emergency telephone calls are made, one may hear a busy signal. Confronted by a growing system with funding shortages, it is necessary to cover the program by approving the incremental costs and future accommodations delineated in AB 912.

Very truly yours,


Pat McNamara
President


Timothy H. B. Yaryan
Legislative Counsel and Advocate

cc: Members, Consultants -- Sen. Comm. on Energy, Utilities & Communications
Assemblymember Norma Torres
RSA

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