

*December 7, 2010*

Washington, D.C. – Congressman Jerry McNerney (CA-11) today sent a letter to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs advocating for an expedited decision on the location of the new veterans medical facility in San Joaquin County.

This letter is in response to a recent update from the Secretary of Veterans Affairs stating that the decision on the final location is expected in spring of 2011. Previous statements by the VA indicated that the final decision was expected to take place in fall of 2010. In the letter, Congressman McNerney expresses his concern about the VA's delay in announcing a final location and advocates for a decision to be reached as soon as possible.

The text of the letter from Congressman McNerney to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs follows.

December 7, 2010

The Honorable Eric Shinseki  
Secretary  
Department of Veterans Affairs  
810 Vermont Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20420

Dear Secretary Shinseki:

I appreciate your continued correspondence to provide me with up-to-date information regarding the Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA) decision to locate a new medical facility in the Stockton/French Camp area.

I applaud the VA's efforts to ensure that the best possible location is selected to serve California's veterans. However, I am concerned by the length of time it has taken the VA to announce a final location. Despite periodic updates regarding the VA's progress, the estimated completion date continues to be delayed – the most recent information you have provided suggests that a decision will not be made until at least the spring of 2011 – with few assurances that another delay will not occur.

Again, while I recognize and appreciate the VA's efforts to conduct a thorough study of each proposal, I believe that a decision should be made as soon as possible. In an area with tens of

thousands of veterans and high unemployment, this facility will provide a tremendous benefit for our community.

Thanks you for your tireless work on behalf of our nation's veterans, and I look forward to working with you moving forward.

Sincerely,

Jerry McNerney  
Member of Congress