

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

February 6, 2013

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

Dear Secretary Shinseki:

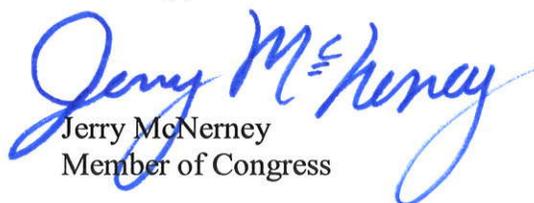
I appreciate your continued dedication to the men and women who have served our country, and I am pleased that the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has agreed to locate a new outpatient clinic and community living center in San Joaquin County. As you know, our veterans sacrificed greatly to defend our country and they deserve the best care and benefits upon transitioning to civilian life. That is why I urge the VA to guarantee and accelerate funding for construction of the new VA facility in French Camp.

According to the VA, the design and development phase of this project will be completed in early spring 2013. However, each day this project is delayed means thousands of veterans must drive hundreds of miles to Palo Alto, CA for many medical services. Furthermore, the Central Valley in Northern California is disproportionately affected by high unemployment rates. The French Camp facility is estimated to create 900 jobs at a critical time for our region's economy and veterans. For these reasons, expediting construction is essential and your leadership through the budget process will greatly benefit veterans in California.

In addition, the Livermore VA Medical Center will be reevaluated for best use once the new facilities in San Joaquin County and Alameda County are completed. Once again, I request that you keep the Livermore facility in the hands of veterans. The VA may want to explore the feasibility of transitioning this facility into a community based outpatient clinic so that local veterans can continue to receive critical medical services, while not burdening the VA budget.

I know that the VA is working to utilize its resources efficiently, so that we are able to provide veterans with the benefits they earned, and that you remain committed to maintaining the highest level of care for veterans. As you continue your great work as Secretary of the VA, I ask that you include funding for the French Camp facility in your FY2014 budget. Thank you for your time and commitment on behalf of all our nation's veterans.

Sincerely,

  
Jerry McNerney  
Member of Congress

Cc: OMB Acting Director Jeffrey Zients