

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

December 14, 2011

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Obama:

We are writing to bring your attention to a critically important issue for veterans in California. Earlier this year the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) reached a final decision on the location of a new community based outpatient clinic and community living center in San Joaquin County, CA. We are pleased the VA reached a final decision, and we request your personal commitment to making sure that the new facilities are constructed as quickly as possible.

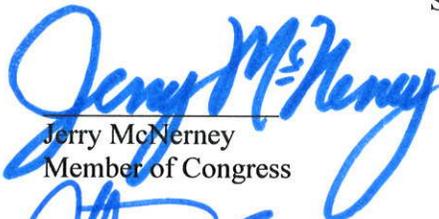
Bringing new medical facilities to San Joaquin County will benefit veterans throughout the greater Central Valley region and create hundreds of jobs in an area hit hard by these difficult economic times. According to information we have received from the VA, construction is likely to begin in 2013 or 2014, and operations are expected to start in 2018. We understand that designing such facilities is time consuming, and we believe that the VA should take every step to ensure that San Joaquin veterans receive medical care of the highest quality. However, we write to insist that everything possible be done to expedite this schedule.

Veterans from the Central Valley often travel hours to see a doctor, having to go as far away as Palo Alto to receive basic services. The new San Joaquin facilities are badly needed, and any delays in commencing construction would be unacceptable. Furthermore, in an area with tens of thousands of veterans and high unemployment, this new facility will provide 900 jobs and a tremendous economic benefit to the community. Timely construction of the new VA outpatient clinic and living center is critical.

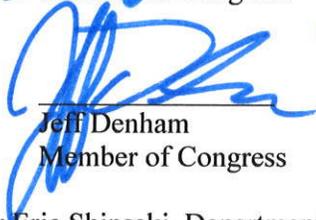
Placing a new facility in the Central Valley is a top priority for the VA. In fact, the VA Strategic Capital Investment Plan lists the project as a top 20 priority for construction. When producing future budget requests and any other relevant planning documents, we encourage your administration to prioritize the development and construction of the new VA medical facilities in San Joaquin County. Good planning that allows construction funds to be available upon completion of the schematic and design stages will facilitate a smooth and efficient process and serve the best interests of California's veterans.

We thank you for your work on behalf of our nation's veterans. We ask that your administration provide us with regular updates on progress the VA is making on this matter, and we look forward to working with you moving forward.

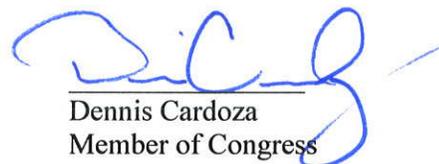
Sincerely,



Jerry McNerney
Member of Congress



Jeff Denham
Member of Congress



Dennis Cardoza
Member of Congress

Cc: Secretary Eric Shinseki, Department of Veterans Affairs; Director Jack Lew, Office of Management and Budget