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Assembly
California Legislature



JEFF GORELL
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, THIRTY-SEVENTH DISTRICT

COMMITTEES
EDUCATION
JUDICIARY
LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
UTILITIES AND COMMERCE
VETERANS AFFAIRS

January 23, 2012

To the Ventura County Board of Supervisors:

I am writing in regards to the inclusion of a Project Labor Agreement (PLA) for the upgrade to the Ventura County Medical Center. It is my understanding that the Ventura County Board of Supervisors heard the arguments made both in support and opposition to the inclusion of this policy. The Office of Assemblyman Jeff Gorell supports the inclusion of a PLA to the extent that it provides the best quality of construction and product that maximizes the benefit to the Ventura County community.

Our office recognizes the importance of several critical factors when considering the hiring of contractors for important public sector projects. The contracting process must be fair, utilize highly qualified and trained workers, and provide the best value to the residents of Ventura County. To the extent that these factors are met, I support the inclusion of PLAs for the Ventura County Medical Center, which provides compassionate care and services to many of our local residents. To my understanding, an inclusion of a PLA does not prohibit local businesses from engaging in a fair hiring process that benefits all parties involved for the best value—the residents of Ventura County, the contractors, and the workers. PLAs do not exclude non-union contractors and workers, but only require that all contractors and workers follow the best standards of construction work and wages.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (815) 230-9167. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ernie Villegas", written over a horizontal line.

Ernie Villegas
District Director
Assemblyman Jeff Gorell,
37th District