

2022 Senate District 12 Budget Request

Project Request: **Emergency Operations Center (EOC)**

Name of City: City of Hollister

Contact Information: Fire Chief Bob Martin Del Campo

If you plan to transfer funds to non-profit, please include name of the organization and contact information: The funds would reside with the City of Hollister.

Project Name: Emergency Operations Center (EOC)

Total amount of funds requested: \$6.5 million

Project Timeline: 4-5 years

Project Budget (include all funding sources):

- **Specify if project will require additional funding from sources other than this request and how you plan to secure the necessary funding**

The City of Hollister is actively pursuing capital improvement funds. Due to COVID-19 and limited resource availability, we anticipate the cost of construction to increase as time lapses. The City of Hollister owns the airport where the improvements and/or construction is anticipated.

- **Specify if this funding is needed for project completion**

Funding is needed for improvements to create an emergency response center.

Include Status of Planning and Design, if applicable:

Include Project Photos or Project Specifications, if available:

Brief description of the proposed project and how the community/neighborhood will benefit from the project:

The Hollister Fire Department (FPD) services three jurisdictions San Benito County, the City of Hollister, and San Juan Bautista. The City of Hollister has been identified as a vulnerable area by Cal-OES analysis and 2018 CDC Social Vulnerability Index. It is crucial that the City of Hollister strategically plan and enhance access to rural areas and create a hub for emergency operation center. The City of Hollister does not have an Emergency Operation Center. In addition, the City of Hollister is working on their 911 communication center. This impacts every aspect of a coordinated emergency response; every second could be the difference between life, death, natural and manmade disasters. The San Benito County Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) provides basic guidance related to earthquakes, flooding, fires, landslides, severe weather, pandemics, and epidemics, as well as hazardous material emergencies. Below is a chart of the population growth. Due to limited resources, financial, human resources and equipment, the City of Hollister is not going to be able to meet the crossroad between population growth and the needs of the community.

Population Overview

Table 1 shows that In 2015, the population in San Benito County was 59,039³. Between 2010 and 2015, the County’s population grew by 3,492 residents, an annual growth rate of 1.25%.

**Table 1
Total Population Projections for California and Counties in 5-year Increments**

	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030
California	37,341,978	38,896,969	40,619,346	42,373,301	44,085,600
Monterey County	416,141	429,584	446,258	462,608	476,874
Santa Cruz County	263,709	273,695	281,870	290,674	295,538
San Benito County	55,547	59,039	63,418	68,312	73,459
Hollister		36,529			
San Juan Bautista		2,250			

Source: State of California, Department of Finance, Report P-1 (Total Population): State and County Population Projections, 2010-2060. Sacramento, California, December 2014.

The San Benito County Emergency Operations Plan (EOP), adopted August 2015, is designed to set the foundation for emergency management to reduce the county’s vulnerabilities to both natural and manmade disasters. The EOP provides basic guidance related to earthquakes, flooding, fires, landslides, severe weather, pandemics, and epidemics, as well as hazardous material emergencies. Guidance is presented in the form of mitigation programs, which are split into three categories: emergency prevention and protection; response concept of operations; and recovery concept of operations. The City of Hollister does not have an Office of Emergency Services or an assigned emergency planner.

Response Times and Performance During 2019, the HFD responded to 33 grass fires and 22 building fires. The HFD also responded to 21 vehicle fires, 18 brush or brush-and-grass mixture fires, 17 trash/rubbish fires, and 12 cooking fires. In the General Plan Planning Area, there were a total of 4,245 calls for service, including 2,550 for EMS, ambulances, and similar services. The HFD has a response time goal to be on scene within 5 minutes following a call for service, which is consistent with the National Fire Protection Association Standard 1710. The HFD reports that its current response time is approximately 5 to 7 minutes in the city, but response times vary within their 1,400 square mile service area due to its large size and rural, often inaccessible, nature. The HFD strives to improve response time with strategic engine placement, more station locations, increased staffing, and equipment updates. Another challenge is the drought, below is a chart of the wildfire responsibility and fire hazard severity zones.

Figure 18-1 Wildfire Responsibility and Fire Hazard Severity Zones

