

JIM COSTA

20TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA
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WASHINGTON, DC 20515

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RANKING MEMBER

January 4, 2012

Governor Jerry Brown
c/o State Capitol, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Brown:

California and the United States face difficult economic challenges as we well know. While it is imperative we reduce the red ink in both the state and federal budgets, I write to implore you to include in your upcoming budget proposal sufficient funding so that the Fresno Veterans Home can begin admitting veterans as soon as possible.

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and the California Department of Veterans Affairs (CDVA) recently renegotiated the terms of California's State Home Grant at my urging and secured the approval of \$92 million for the construction of the Fresno Veterans Home. This critical announcement moved us one step closer toward finishing the construction of the home on time and under-budget.

As part of the agreement, CDVA committed to opening the home as soon as state funds for operation and maintenance of the home were approved in California's budget. It is my understanding that CDVA made the request to you for the inclusion of these funds in your budget.

This home is a promise we have made to the veterans of Fresno and the surrounding communities, and we must keep that promise. Many hundreds of veterans in the Fresno area have already expressed their desire to utilize the home as soon as it opens. It is therefore critical, that we honor the commitment California and our country has made to these veterans by insuring funds are made available for the operation and maintenance of the Fresno Veterans Home in the budget you will soon release.

Please let me know if I can provide further information for you or if I may be of assistance to you in the coming days.

Sincerely,

JIM COSTA
Member of Congress

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