



July 16, 2021

Mayor Jose Segarra
City of Killeen
101 North College Street
Killeen, TX 76541

Dear Honorable Mayor Jose Segarra,

The Central Texas Council of Governments (CTCOG) currently administers the State's 9-1-1 Program for your city/county, as directed by legislation enacted in 1987. The CTCOG – Emergency Communications/9-1-1 program has more than met the legislative charge of providing emergency dispatch centers with the latest and best available equipment and technology and assuring that this equipment and technology are operating or backed up on a 24 hour/365-day basis.

I am writing this letter to you on behalf of the CTCOG Board of Directors, which is made up of elected and appointed officials from the entities which are served by the CTCOG 9-1-1 program. We believe there is a positive opportunity for the participants in the CTCOG program to have a real and larger impact on policy and fiscal matters than is now available through the state administrative program.

In a legislative session, the Health and Safety Code was amended to permit Councils of Governments/Regional Planning Commissions to establish Regional Emergency Communications Districts (ECD). We see a lot of potential advantages and opportunities that would be to our benefit by creating an ECD. I will attempt to lay out our reasoning in the following paragraphs.

Currently, our citizens and businesses are charged 50 cents on their phone bills to pay for 9-1-1 services. This money is remitted to and held by the state until the legislature appropriates all or part of the funds collected to the Texas Commission on State Emergency Communications (CSEC). CSEC then allocates these funds to councils of governments. The problem is that the Legislature does not always appropriate all the funds collected, but rather retains some of the funds to show (on paper) a balanced state budget.

If we were to create an Emergency Communication District (ECD), the monies collected through the maximum 50 cent fee would be remitted in their entirety to this district. The major benefit from this, aside from all the funds collected in our region coming back to it, is that a long-range strategic plan could be adopted outlining future capital improvements and replacements for our dispatch centers based on a known and reliable stream of revenue. Under the present situation, we have no certainty of the amount of funding that the region will receive during any given



biennium. This results in inefficiencies because long-term planning for capital equipment is difficult to do.

The other major benefit to being realized from having our district is one of local control. Policy and budgetary matters would be decided by a Board of Directors consisting of local elected officials from entities served by the CTCOG 9-1-1 Program. The new law specifies that councils of governments, CTCOG in our case, will continue to staff the district. This assures that there will be no disruption to the current services provided to our citizens and businesses.

The new law requires that the governing body of each entity now served by a council of governments pass a resolution calling for the creation of an ECD. The CTCOG Board of Directors have already indicated an interest in doing so and have approved the resolution that is being presented. Thus, we are now reaching out to everyone to execute the resolution. Please let us know of your preference and/or if you would like to have a meeting to learn more about this matter and to get any questions answered. Also, enclosed is the approved sample resolution, which can be used to support the creation of an ECD. I would encourage you to contact Uryan Nelson, Director at 254.770.2373 with any additional questions.

Please notify us as soon as you are ready to execute the resolution and/or if you would like us to come speak to the governing body of your entity to further discuss this resolution. I would also encourage you to call me at 254.654.1595 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Jim Reed, AICP
Executive Director
Central Texas Council of Governments

Cc: City Manager/ Secretary