



420 Capitola Avenue  
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Website: <http://www.cityofcapitola.org>

March 13, 2026

To:

The Honorable Alex Padilla, United States Senate  
The Honorable Adam Schiff, United States Senate  
The Honorable Jimmy Panetta, United States House of Representatives  
The Honorable Zoe Lofgren, United States House of Representatives

Dear Senators Padilla and Schiff, and Representatives Panetta and Lofgren:

I write on behalf of the Capitola Police Department serving Santa Cruz County to request your support for federal funding for the Regional Interoperable Next Generation (RING) Radio System, a vital upgrade to the region's public safety communications infrastructure.

Officer safety and effective emergency response depend on reliable communications. Santa Cruz County's existing radio system no longer meets operational needs. Agencies frequently experience coverage gaps, dropped signals, and limited interoperability, particularly in rural and mountainous areas. These deficiencies hinder coordination during critical incidents, major disasters, and multi-agency responses.

During emergencies, law enforcement must communicate clearly and instantly—not only within our own agencies, but with fire, EMS, dispatch centers, and emergency management partners. The inability to communicate seamlessly across agencies places officers and the public at unnecessary risk.

The RING Radio System will provide a secure, encrypted, interoperable communications platform that supports modern law enforcement operations while enabling unified response during disasters, wildfires, and large-scale incidents. This system will strengthen situational awareness, improve coordination, and enhance officer safety throughout the county. Local governments have demonstrated strong commitment by completing procurement, establishing regional governance, and assuming responsibility for long-term operating costs.

As a key partner in this project, Capitola Police supports Santa Cruz County's \$5.4 million request to assist with the capital construction of this system. Federal participation would reduce local costs and help assure countywide participation while accelerating delivery of a resilient, interoperable communications network that protects lives and property.



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We respectfully ask for your support in securing federal funding for this project and appreciate your continued leadership and commitment to public safety.

Sincerely,

Gerry Jensen  
Vice Mayor, City of Capitola