

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

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BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

April 16, 2015

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Terry Withrow, Chair
Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors
1010 Tenth Street, Suite 6700
Modesto, CA 95354

The Honorable Terry Withrow:

During the period of July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014, your County Veterans Service Office (CVSO) obtained new and increased monthly cash benefits from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (USDVA), in the amount of \$532,084. On an annualized basis this amounts to more than \$6,385,008 in new benefit payments. In addition, your CVSO obtained \$7,450,472 in one-time benefits, which consists of single and retro-active payments received by veterans or their dependents. Studies have shown that monies spent in a community could turn over between 3 to 7 times, which is a fairly accurate measure of the spending impact on a community. Using the conservative multiplier of 3, this equates to a spending impact of at least \$19,155,024 from the annualized monthly cash benefits and \$22,351,416 from the one-time benefits received.

In addition to the fact that your veterans community received the above cash benefit awards, claim advocacy services provided by your county to obtain and maintain federal monetary benefits have resulted in savings based on your county's active participation in the State Mandated Welfare Referral Program. This program requires your CVSO to verify and make benefits entitlement determinations on all public assistance referrals (i.e. GA/FR, Cal WORKS, Food Stamps, and Medi-Cal) received from your County Welfare Department. Included in the totals above are \$66,324 in annualized monthly benefits and \$520,176 in one-time benefits received by individuals who had applied for public assistance grants.

I hope that you will consider this valuable information when addressing the needs of a properly funded and fully supported CVSO. With a net county cost of less than \$293,000, your CVSO once again remains one of the few revenue producing offices in the county. Your county veteran population deserves, and has earned the right to continued high quality representation in veterans' affairs.

If CalVet can be of further assistance in maintaining your CVSO's services, please feel free to contact Deputy Secretary, of the Veterans Services Division, Keith Boylan at: (916) 653-2573.

Sincerely,

Debbie Endsley
Secretary (A)

Cc: County Veteran Service Office
VSD File