

September 25, 2014

The Honorable Raul Ruiz  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Ruiz:

Administrator Contreras-Sweet has asked me to respond to your recent inquiry regarding opportunities for U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) offices and centers in your district. I look forward to working with you and your office on the many small business issues regarding growing small businesses in California and across the country.

In order to fulfill our mission of outreach and education, I agree that the Agency can improve its presence in the Inland Empire. To that end I have instructed our Santa Ana District Director to put together a feasibility study on opening an Alternate Work Site in the region. In the event that we cannot justify doing so, we will look at other options to expand our presence.

Also, you requested that SBA fund a grant for a Veterans Business Outreach Center (VBOC) in your district. The Veterans Business Outreach Program is designed to provide entrepreneurial development services such as business training, counseling and mentoring, and referrals for eligible veterans owning or considering starting a small business. The SBA has 15 organizations participating in this cooperative agreement and serving as VBOCs. Our VBOCs are part of a competitively bid grant process and we would encourage a member of your local community bidding for the opportunity to host one in the future.

We appreciate your support of SBA and California's small business community. If you or your staff have any additional questions, please contact Mr. Daniel Krupnick, Deputy Assistant Administrator for Congressional and Legislative Affairs, at (202) 205-6700.

Sincerely,

Rob Hill  
Associate Administrator  
Office of Field Operations