



COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY AND COMMERCE

COMMITTEE ON
SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0509

April 30, 2021

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chairwoman
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
H-307 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger
Ranking Member
Committee of Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
1036 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair DeLauro and Ranking Member Granger:

I am requesting funding in the amount of \$3,000,000 for a Fire Station in the fiscal year 2022 Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill.

The project sponsor for this project is the East Contra Costa Fire Protection District (ECCFPD), located at 150 City Park Way, Brentwood, CA 94513.

The project will provide funding to add a fire station in the City of Brentwood to serve the ECCFPD community. Currently, ECCFPD staffs three fire stations, 24 hours a day, seven days a week with 19 full-time firefighters responsible for covering this vast territory. Stations are located in Brentwood, Oakley, and Discovery Bay. The ECCFPD's strategic plan, published in early 2018, identified a current need for six stations to adequately protect both residents and firefighters across the 249 square mile district. Another three stations will be required to accommodate expected growth in the coming years.

ECCFPD hired a management consultant to conduct a performance and headquarters staffing adequacy study in 2016. That study states that ECCFPD's deployment system does not meet the risks present in Brentwood and Oakley if ECCFPD is expected to prevent more than a catastrophic loss. The study further states that ECCFPD is the most under-deployed and administratively understaffed fire department that the management consultant had seen for the size of the communities to be protected. This new station will directly address that need by serving the communities of Brentwood and Oakley and providing a direct public benefit to those residents by increasing the level of public safety service that they receive.

ECCFPD serves a large portion of California's 9th Congressional District (CA-9) that is facing rapid population growth in the coming years, especially in the urban areas. The population for the ECCFPD service area is expected to grow to 139,097 by the year 2040, which will increase

fire response demands and needs. As additional commercial and residential buildings are erected and more residents move into the community, it is critical that there is adequate public safety infrastructure to be able to provide firefighting and lifesaving services.

The ECCFPD is a rural funded fire district that protects approximately 249 square miles, 695 miles of public roads, and over 128,000 residents. ECCFPD provides firefighting personnel and emergency medical services (basic life support) to the residents and businesses of the Cities of Brentwood, and Oakley, and to the Townships of Discovery Bay, Bethel Island, Knightsen, Byron, Marsh Creek, and Morgan Territory.

As part of the 2018 strategic planning process, a survey was administered to the community to determine their level of satisfaction with the existing service levels, particularly emergency response times and fire containment strategy, of ECCFPD. Less than 20 percent of the community indicated that they were satisfied. Results of the survey showed support for funding for additional fire stations to help reduce the impacts of regional population growth that may exacerbate response times and service level challenges.

ECCFPD's Fire Station project represents a good use of taxpayer dollars as funding for the project will allow ECCFPD to more effectively meet its public safety obligations and reduce response times to the local community. Today, ECCFPD is unable to meet the nationally recognized goal of a 4 minute response time for urban density areas and an 8 minute response time for suburban and rural population density areas because there are not enough fire stations to be able to respond within these call time windows in order to minimize the loss of life or loss of a structure. Especially in CA-9 where there are often severe winds, drought, and other extreme fire conditions, residents and taxpayers deserve to have appropriate public safety infrastructure in place to keep them safe. The addition of a fire station is critical to help ECCFPD serve the community and is a necessary project that will benefit each of the residents served by ECCFPD in CA-9.

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jerry McNerney", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jerry McNerney
Member of Congress