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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

Juan Vargas
52nd District, California

COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES
SUBCOMMITTEE ON CAPITAL MARKETS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL
INSTITUTIONS AND MONETARY POLICY
SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL SECURITY,
ILLICIT FINANCE, AND INTERNATIONAL
FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

May 9, 2024

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for the “New Bonita Fire Engine” project in fiscal year 2025, in the amount of \$2,000,000. The entity to receive the funding is Bonita Sunnyside Fire Protection District (BSFPD), located at 4900 Bonita Road, Bonita, CA 91902.

This project will fund the acquisition of a new fire engine to replace an engine that has been in frontline services for 12 years—longer than the recommended timeframe for replacing a frontline engine. The new truck will expand frontline capacity and enable the BSFPD to staff multiple engines during large disasters, while still complying with required maintenance schedules and safety standards. Eight of the ten largest wildfires in California history have occurred in the last five years. In this time of increasing fire risk, more equipment is needed to protect our community effectively. The BSFPD serves over 18,000 individuals across a seven square mile service area—including commercial developments as well as parklands and conservation areas. A new fire engine would allow the Department to respond more promptly to all of the 1,800 calls that it receives over an average year. In particular, the Department plans to acquire a Type 1 fire engine with a 500-gallon poly tank and 2000 GPM PTO driven pump with an inline Compressed Air Foam System and associated 30-gallon tank.

This project is a good use of taxpayer resources because the new fire engine will be in service for ten years in a frontline capacity and another ten years in a reserve capacity.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by 42 U.S.C. 5305(a).

This project has support from local leaders including California State Senator Brian Jones and Chairwoman Nora Vargas from the San Diego County Board of Supervisors.

I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Juan Vargas". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and "V".

JUAN VARGAS
Member of Congress