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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

Juan Vargas
52nd District, California

COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES
RANKING MEMBER, TASK FORCE ON
MONETARY POLICY, TREASURY MARKET RESILIENCE,
AND ECONOMIC PROSPERITY
SUBCOMMITTEE ON CAPITAL MARKETS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL SECURITY,
ILLICIT FINANCE, AND INTERNATIONAL
FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

March 20, 2026

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
House Appropriations Committee
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Committee
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro,

I am requesting funding for the Regional Emergency Command Center Upgrade project in fiscal year 2027, in the amount of \$500,000. The entity to receive the funding is the Bonita-Sunnyside Fire Protection District, located at 4900 Bonita Road, Bonita CA 91902.

The project will convert an existing board room into a fully functional Regional Emergency Command Center designed to support both day-to-day coordination and extended emergency operations. The current space lacks the technological infrastructure, communications capability, and security features required to support today's complex, multi-agency incident responses. For instance, the room does not currently provide integrated display capability, redundant communications systems, secure connectivity, or backup power necessary for sustained operations during disasters. Key components of the upgrade include upgrading workstations, improving the layout, installing integrated technology systems, enhancing communications, improving infrastructure, and making security enhancements. By establishing a centralized hub for local and regional coordination, this project will improve real-time decision-making, resource tracking, and operational communication across jurisdictions.

This project is a good use of federal funds because it will strengthen emergency coordination capacity for Bonita and the surrounding South San Diego County region. The Bonita-Sunnyside Fire Protection District serves a densely populated and high-demand response area in southern San Diego County, including wildland-urban interface (WUI) zones, critical transportation corridors, and mutual-aid response routes. The region faces increasing risks from wildfire, extreme heat events, flooding, earthquakes, and large-scale public safety incidents. The upgraded facility will serve as a centralized coordination hub for multi-agency response throughout South San Diego County, improving interoperability, communication reliability, and real-time decision-making during emergencies. As emergency events grow in frequency and complexity, effective response depends on reliable, centralized command infrastructure capable of supporting unified command, operational coordination, and interagency collaboration.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by section 614 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5196c), as amended by section 202 of the Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007 (9/11 Act).

This project has broad support from a large network of partners and stakeholders, including State Senator Stephen Padilla, State Assemblymember David Alvarez, and Andy Lawler, the Fire Chief of San Miguel Fire & Rescue.

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

Thank you for your consideration of funding for these programs. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact my Senior Legislative Assistant, Michael Rivas, at michael.rivas@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Juan Vargas".

Juan Vargas
Member of Congress