



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture – Rural Development

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KNIGHTS LANDING TO PURCHASE NEW FIRE ENGINE WITH HELP FROM USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT

\$185,000 in grant and low-interest loan announced

DAVIS, Calif., June 23, 2008 – The rural community of Knights Landing is one step closer to purchasing a new fire engine with help from a \$75,000 grant and \$110,000 low-interest loan from USDA Rural Development, announced State Director Ben Higgins today.

Knights Landing Fire Protection District will use the funds to purchase a fully equipped multi-hazard fire engine to replace an existing twelve year old engine. The fire protection district is staffed by volunteers who provide fire suppression and emergency response services to the community of Knights Landing and the surrounding area.

“Today’s announcement reflects our ongoing commitment to help provide small communities in rural areas with basic tools they need to keep people and property safe,” said Higgins. “With these funds we are helping to ensure Knights Landing residents receive the same level of fire safety and protection that many of their urban counterparts have long taken for granted.”

In the last five years, USDA Rural Development has invested more than \$54 million in California to augment the capabilities of first responders in rural areas. These funds have been used by rural communities to purchase, among other critical items, police cars, fire engines, emergency rescue equipment, and communications devices.

USDA Rural Development's mission is to deliver programs in a way that will support increasing economic opportunity and improve the quality of life of rural residents. As a venture capital entity, Rural Development has invested over \$91 billion since the beginning of the Bush Administration to provide equity and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure. As a result, over 1.7 million jobs have been created or saved through these investments. Further information on rural programs is available at one of California’s 18 local USDA Rural Development offices or by visiting <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/ca>.

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