



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture – Rural Development

World Wide Web: <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/ca>

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USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT AIDS FIRST RESPONDERS

Over \$400,000 delivered to rural communities throughout the state

DAVIS, Calif., April 30, 2007 – From ambulances to K-9 units and fire stations to aerial surveillance drones, USDA Rural Development State Director Benjamin Higgins announced today funding for nine first responder projects throughout California. This funding, totaling \$411,458, will enhance the capabilities of law enforcement, fire departments, and other first responders in several rural communities.

“These grants reflect our ongoing commitment to ensuring that small communities in rural areas have the tools they need to keep people and property safe,” said Higgins. “These grants make a big difference in these communities, by providing basic needs, like body armor for police officers, turnout gear for fire fighters, or medical equipment for search and rescue agencies.”

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 trucks, emergency rescue equipment and communications devices.

Specific grants being announced today include the following:

\$44,250 to the County of Tulare to assist with the purchase of an aerial surveillance drone for the prevention of agricultural-related crime.

\$42,447 to the City of Live Oak in Sutter County to assist with the purchase of a K-9 dog and specially-equipped vehicle, as well as equipment and training for dog and sheriff’s deputy.

\$35,547 to the City of Live Oak to renovate electrical systems and install a back-up generator for the city fire department.

\$50,000 to the Kettenpom-Zenia Volunteer Fire Company in Trinity County to assist with the building of a two-bay fire station that will also serve as community center.

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USDA RD Aids First Responders

\$30,000 to the County of Trinity to assist with the purchase of a new ambulance.

\$45,000 (accompanied by a \$55,000 loan) to the Salyer Community Services District in Trinity County to assist with the building of a two-bay fire station.

\$55,000 to the Farmington Fire Protection District in San Joaquin County to assist with the purchase of a new rescue vehicle.

\$37,225 to the Mattole Restoration Council in Humboldt County to assist with the purchase of ten fire suppression water tanks.

\$16,989 to the City of Lindsay in Tulare County to assist with the purchase of turnout gear for the city fire department.

Higgins noted that USDA Rural Development makes investments in a variety of areas. “Today it’s police cars and fire trucks, but throughout the year we’re assisting communities with water infrastructure, broadband access, hospitals, schools, housing, local economic development and much more. Our investments are truly providing a better future for rural California.”

Additional grants to rural first responders will be made in fiscal year 2007. Interested communities should contact their local USDA Rural Development office.

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 \$76 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 1.5 million jobs have been created or saved through these investments. Further information on rural programs is available at one of California’s 25 local USDA Rural Development offices or by visiting <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/ca>.

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“Committed to the future of rural communities”
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