



# NEWS RELEASE

**United States Department of Agriculture – Rural Development**

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

**Ben Higgins, State Director**

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## **USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT AIDS FIRST RESPONDERS IN SUTTER COUNTY**

*Nearly \$78,000 delivered to Live Oak*

DAVIS, Calif., April 30, 2007 – From a K-9 unit to fire station repairs, USDA Rural Development State Director Benjamin Higgins announced today funding for two first responder projects in Sutter County. This funding, totaling \$77,994, will enhance the capabilities of fire departments and law enforcement in the rural city of Live Oak.

“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.

In addition to the grants in Sutter County listed below, USDA Rural Development has announced seven other projects totaling over \$330,000 in other rural communities throughout California.

\$42,447 to the City of Live Oak 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. The unit will be operated out of the Live Oak substation of the Sutter County Sheriff’s Department.

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

Higgins noted that USDA Rural Development makes investments in a variety of areas. “Today it’s a K-9 unit and fire station repairs, 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.”

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Additional grants to rural first responders will be made in fiscal year 2007. Interested communities should contact the USDA Rural Development office in Oroville, Calif. at (530) 533-4401.

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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