



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture – Rural Development

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USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT AIDS FIRST RESPONDERS IN TRINITY COUNTY

Over \$160,000 delivered to rural communities throughout county

DAVIS, Calif., April 30, 2007 – From an ambulance to fire stations, USDA Rural Development State Director Benjamin Higgins announced today funding for three first responder projects in Trinity County. This funding, totaling \$167,225, will enhance the capabilities of fire departments and other first responders in rural communities throughout the county.

“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 Trinity County listed below, USDA Rural Development has announced six other projects totaling over \$230,000 in other rural communities throughout California.

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

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

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

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Higgins noted that USDA Rural Development makes investments in a variety of areas. “Today it’s ambulances and fire stations, 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 the USDA Rural Development office in Red Bluff, Calif. at (530) 527-1013.

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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