



# NEWS RELEASE

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## USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROVIDES FUNDS TO CALIFORNIA RURAL FIRE AUXILIARY

On May 23, 2008, Morris Westfall, Missouri State Director for USDA Rural Development, presented a mock check for \$245,000 to Robert Borts, President of the California Rural Fire Auxiliary for purchase of a new fire station. The loan funds will allow the California Rural Fire Auxiliary to provide a facility for use by the California Rural Fire District as new Station Number 1. The new five bay facility is located at 59200 Jefferson City Road, California, MO. The California Rural Fire Auxiliary is a not for profit corporation which provides support to the California Rural Fire District. The Auxiliary leases the new facility to the Fire District.

“This much needed replacement of the existing Fire Station #1 building will benefit residents of the fire District greatly,” said Robert Borts, President of the California Rural Fire Auxiliary. “The new facility is better located for access and larger to accommodate modern equipment.”

“First responders work incredibly hard protecting Missouri’s families,” said U.S. Senator Claire McCaskill. “I’m thrilled these federal dollars will help ensure that the California Rural Fire Protection District has up-to-date facilities and can best serve the communities in Moniteau and Cooper counties.”



Pictured left to right: Kelly N. Gregory, USDA Rural Development Area Director; Daniel R. Minks, USDA Rural Development Area Specialist; Kenny Jones, State Representative; Katy Disinger, for Senator Claire McCaskill; Carl Vogel, State Senator; Kenny Kunze, Moniteau County Presiding Commissioner; Morris Westfall, State Director USDA Rural Development; Ed Bleich, Fire Chief; Ann Kutscher, for Representative Ike Skelton; David Strobel, (with two grandchildren) President California Rural fire Protection District; Bobby Borts, firefighter and California Rural Fire Auxiliary President; David Gier, firefighter; Terry Bleich, firefighter and California Rural Fire Auxiliary Vice President; Glen Bayne, firefighter

“USDA is pleased to be able to assist California Rural Fire Auxiliary with funds for the fire station building purchase,” said Westfall. “Appreciation is extended to our federal elected officials for supporting USDA Rural Development. They have been strong proponents for the necessary funding for essential services for rural Missourians.”

Other officials attending from USDA were: Kelly Gregory Area Director from Clinton, and Dan Minks, Area Specialist, Jefferson City, MO.

Community Facilities assistance can be by direct loans, grants, or guaranteed loans through a conventional lender to help communities meet the basic needs of its citizens, as well as build a stronger, more vibrant community. The funds are available to public entities such as municipalities, counties, special purpose districts, and non-profit corporations which meet specific criteria.

Representing California Rural Fire Auxiliary was: Robert Borts, President and Terry Bleich, Vice President. Representing California Rural Fire District were Dave Strobel, President; and Ed Bleich, Fire Chief. Ken Kunze, Presiding Commissioner, was present representing Moniteau County.

Anyone seeking more information about the USDA Rural Development programs may visit the homepage at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/mo/> or contact Dan Minks, Area Specialist, 1911 Boggs Creek Road, Jefferson City, MO 65101 at 573-893-8504, ext. # 4 or [dan.minks@mo.usda.gov](mailto:dan.minks@mo.usda.gov) by e-mail

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