

Contra Costa County Fire Protection District

Press Release

Subject: FIRE DISTRICT AWARDED FEDERAL GRANT TO FUND FIREFIGHTER POSITIONS

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The U.S Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency, announced the award of a grant to the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District in the amount of \$6.5 million to fund 21 firefighter positions over the next two years as part of the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response Grants (SAFER) program. The Fire District Board of Directors voted to accept the grant on May 10, 2011.

The Fire District's adopted budget for FY 2011-2012 calls for the closure of up to 5 staffed fire engines. This grant will assist the Fire District in maintaining our ability to meet the emergency response needs of our communities during this period of budget reductions and decreased property tax revenues.

Fire Chief Daryl Louder commented that "the SAFER grant will be a tremendous asset to the Fire District. This funding will be directly responsible for keeping two fire stations open during the two year performance period of the grant. This award will significantly enhance the safety for the community and our firefighters by keeping resources in service."

"Congratulations to the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District on receiving a SAFER program grant," Congressman Garamendi (D-Walnut Creek) said. "These firefighters are heroes, who risk their lives to protect the public. Even in financially challenging times, it is essential that these men and women continue to protect the health and well-being of our community. Simply put, this grant helps our firefighters keep us safe."

"Congratulations to the Fire District on this award from FEMA," said Rep. George Miller (D-Martinez), who represents part of Contra Costa County. "These federal funds will be put to good use here in the East Bay hiring the firefighters that keep our communities safe."

The SAFER program was created to provide funding directly to fire departments and volunteer firefighter interest organizations in order to help them increase the number of trained, "front line" firefighters available in their communities. The goal of SAFER is to enhance the local fire departments' abilities to comply with staffing, response and operational standards established by the NFPA and OSHA (NFPA 1710 and/or NFPA 1720 and OSHA 1910.134). For details visit www.nfpa.org/SAFERActGrant.