



COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
ENERGY AND MINERAL RESOURCES  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
WATER, POWER AND OCEANS

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515

October 30, 2018

DHS-FEMA-GPD  
Attn: Christopher Logan  
Assistant Administrator for Grant Programs  
400 C Street S.W., 3N  
Washington, DC 20472-3635

Dear Assistant Administrator Logan,

This letter serves to express my support for the City of Gustine Fire Department's application for funding through FEMA's Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program. This grant will allow the City of Gustine to replace and remove from service their outdated fire engine, which is no longer fit for service, and replace it with a newer, more reliable model.

Located on the west side of Merced County, the City of Gustine has a population of less than 6,000 people that are served by an all-volunteer fire department with 14 volunteer firefighters based out of one station. As the next nearby station is 12 miles away, many residents, including those in outlying areas, rely on this station for emergency response. The department is also part of a wildfire strike team that serves the State of California and nation per a CFMA agreement.

Gustine's current 1966 open cab, non-NFPA-compliant engine does not meet standards set for emergency response vehicles. With this grant, the City of Gustine will purchase a 2018 NFPA 1901 compliant 1500 GPM single stage pump engine that holds 750 gallons of water and contains four seats. In addition to those specifications, the engine will also contain required equipment, including SCBAs, extraction and hand tools, a thermal imaging camera, and other essential pieces of equipment. This new engine would replace the older outdated engine and further enhance the public safety for the City of Gustine and other outlying areas.

Though Gustine may have unsuccessfully applied for this grant last year, they have been unable to save and lack the ability to afford this engine in the foreseeable future. I understand Gustine may only have \$23,179 in its Fire Reserve Fund, which is short of the required 5% cost share. Subsequently, they have requested a cost share waiver. It is my hope you will give this waiver thoughtful consideration. However, the city has indicated its willingness to delay hiring a police officer to pay the remaining \$10,315.

Merced County was named as California's fastest growing county in a May report from the California Department of Finance. As the growth of the University of California, Merced and other economic developments throughout the county continue, the population, and thus demand for emergency services will continue to grow. This funding provides the City of Gustine the chance to maintain and enhance their public safety to this end by purchasing this engine, which would be an asset both city and countywide.

Thank you for your full and fair consideration of the application by the Gustine Fire Department. As the representative for California's 16<sup>th</sup> Congressional District, I recognize the overwhelming impact these funds would have in Gustine.

Sincerely,

JIM COSTA  
Member of Congress