JERRY McNERNEY
9TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY AND COMMERCE

COMMITTEE ON
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June 25, 2021

Measure X Community Advisory Board
Contra Costa County
1025 Escobar Street
First Floor
Martinez, CA 94553

RE: Measure X Funding for Fire Protection in Contra Costa County

Dear Board Members:

I write to bring to your attention the urgent need to improve fire protection in Contra Costa County. I understand that representatives from firefighting agencies in the County have presented a proposal requesting funding to help overcome challenges they are facing. Public safety is the primary responsibility of government, so these firefighting representatives ask that fire agencies be given a high priority on Measure X funding.

East Contra Costa Fire Protection District, which is responsible for fire protection in my district, informs me that the County faces a severe wildfire risk as local firefighting agencies deal with closed stations, a shortage of firefighters and paramedics, a lack of facilities to train new personnel, aging infrastructure, antiquated communications systems, and increasing medical calls. These challenges, if not addressed, will have severe impact on the ability of the local firefighting agencies to effectively meet public safety obligations. Last year, California saw the largest wildfire season recorded in its modern history, and this year another active season is expected. There must be appropriate public safety infrastructure in place to keep residents and the community safe.

Given the desperate need, I ask that you give this request full and fair consideration. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Jerry McNerney
Member of Congress