



# East Contra Costa Fire Protection District

## ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

June 1, 2020

The Honorable John Garamendi  
2368 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Special Districts Provide Essential Service Act– SUPPORT

Dear Congressman Garamendi:

As Fire Chief of the East Contra Costa Fire Protection District, I'd like to express my support for the "Special Districts Provide Essential Service Act," which will make special districts eligible for federal financial assistance in any subsequent pandemic-response package.


The recently passed CARES Act provided \$150 billion to state, county, and local governments under the Treasury Department's newly established "Coronavirus Relief Fund." Under the Special Districts Provide Essential Service Act, special districts would be eligible for 5% of any amount above the \$150 billion already appropriated by Congress. To date, Congress has not provided direct federal financial assistance to special districts and the House's recently released HEROES Act does not guarantee federal funding to special districts as well.

While emergency funding provided to state and local governments through the recently passed CARES Act was urgently needed, it is by no means sufficient. Special districts are working diligently to maintain essential services and infrastructure during this unprecedented public health emergency. We are working to ensure the delivery of critical local services to California's communities such as fire protection, water, wastewater, healthcare delivery and first response, mosquito abatement and vector control, access to parks and open space, safe and respectful burials, transportation and commerce, and more.

If we are to continue meet these challenges, it is imperative that Congress provide funding specifically for special districts by passing the Special Districts Provide Essential Service Act.

We look forward to working with you and other champions in Congress who support this critical legislation.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:  
  
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Brian J. Helmick, Fire Chief  
East Contra Costa Fire Protection District

CC: Senator Diane Feinstein  
Senator Kamala Harris  
Congressman Jerry McNerney