

Brian Helmick
Fire Chief



SERVING THE COMMUNITIES OF:

*Bethel Island
Brentwood
Byron*

*Discovery Bay
Knightsen
Morgan Territory
Oakley*

September 19, 2019

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
State Capitol, First Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SB 109 (Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review) – Budget Act of 2019
Request for Signature**

Dear Governor Newsom:

On behalf of the East Contra Costa Fire Protection District (ECCFPD) I write to respectfully request your signature SB 109. This bill includes additional provisions of the 2019 Budget, including those related to Education, General Government, Human Services, and Resources, and includes a \$500,000 appropriation to the District.

ECCFPD is a rural funded fire district that protect approximately 249 square miles and over 114,000 residents. ECCFPD has three fire stations, staffed by three firefighters at a time, and responds to over 8,000 calls for service each year and provides both fire protection and emergency medical services (basic life support). Service response times present a unique challenge for the District given resource, staffing and station constraints. In addition to serving a diverse range of land use types, limited resources and capacity translate to response times that do not meet national standards.

Being a smaller fire protection district with limited resources, it is increasingly difficult to provide adequate services to those within our jurisdiction. As the cities of Brentwood and Oakley continue to grow at an exponential rate, the District struggles to meet the needs of the community. The \$500,000 appropriation will help the district build an administration building or start building a multi-aspect training facility to include classrooms, training tower and maintenance facilities.

In addition, Senate Bill 109 will appropriate \$14.9 million General Fund one-time to the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection for overtime compensation for CAL FIRE paramedic staff. SB 109 will provide critical funding to multiple deserving agencies and departments across the state, and will prove an immense help to our efforts in ensuring public safety is preserved.

Again, we thank you for your consideration of Senate Bill 109 and respectfully request your signature on this important piece of legislation.

Sincerely,



Brian Helmick
Fire Chief, ECCFPD

Cc; Senator Holly Mitchell, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee Chair
Assemblymember Phil Ting, Assembly Budget Committee Chair
Assemblymember Jim Frazier
Senator Steve Glazer