



March 15, 2023

2024 Community Project Funding

California's 19th Congressional District, US Congressman Jimmy Panetta

Cambria Community Healthcare District

2535 Main Street, Cambria, California 93428

www.cambria-healthcare.org

Project: New Ambulance Station

Location: 2535 Main Street, Cambria, CA 93428

Subcommittee and account of request:

Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies
USDA Rural Development, Rural Community Facility Grants

Amount of Request: \$5,788,000

Purpose of Request: To fund new ambulance station in 3 distinct design and construction phases; Phase 1) Architecture & Engineering Services = \$770,000, Phase 2: Building Demolition & Site Preparation = \$1,815,000 and Phase 3: Ambulance Station Construction = \$3,203,000.

Proposed description: The Cambria Community Healthcare District is seeking funds to support a new ambulance station. The proposed new station will provide living quarters for our 4 first responders per shift (2 paramedics and 2 EMTs) who provide 24-hour emergency ambulance service to 6,853 residents and over 1 million annual visitors within a 515 square mile area along the rugged central coast of California. An apparatus bay will allow ambulances to be securely garaged and protected from the corrosive coastal environment extending vehicle service life. The new ambulance station will meet all code requirements, be designed and constructed to resist fire, earthquake, or high winds assuring first responder safety and fleet readiness, which in turn, enhances community safety when emergencies or natural disasters occur.

Why this project is a valuable use of taxpayer funds: The Cambria Community Healthcare District's service area lies within California's 19th District boundaries. Our service area includes Northwest quadrant of San Luis Obispo County, and via contract, the Southwest portion of (Big Sur South) of Monterey County. The nearest alternative ambulance provider is more than 20 minutes away, time that is critical for the health of the vulnerable community we serve.

Additional cost: The District estimates an additional expense of \$2,712,000. Cost includes interior design, management fees, permits, FF&E, testing and inspections, furnishing and change order contingency.



The proposed new ambulance station meets rural development eligibility requirements under current law.

Why this project is a priority for the District and a benefit to the community: The current station jeopardizes both the District's mission and the personal well-being of the first responders it houses. Crews work 48-hour shifts with little sleep and are currently housed in an unsafe, unheated building. The 66-year-old building is well beyond its useful life span, is poorly designed to meet the modern needs of an ambulance station, is out of code for modern electrical or plumbing systems, does not have appropriate disability accommodations, and has recently been cited by the local Fire Department for multiple life-safety code violations.

For the past 2 decades our agency's revenues have been static due to: 1) a 2002 building moratorium preventing expansion of our tax base and 2) ambulance reimbursement rates which are limited by our high percentage of residents age 65 or older (41% vs. 15% State of California.) With Medicare the primary insurer for 60% of all ambulance transports the average rate of \$605 only reimburses 1/3 of actual transport costs. The budget constrains require our agency to seek external sources to fund the new ambulance station.

The new facility will benefit the community by improving response times, providing lifesaving services to the community and avoiding delays such as pre-warming medications and equipment. Predesign, feasibility study have been completed, once funded the project is ready for phase one.

The proposed project request has not been included in any presidential budget or program.

The proposed request is not being requested by another Member.

The District sought project funding through Bond Measure G-22 on the November 2022 ballot. The bond measure required a 2/3 vote to pass. Election results were Yes-61.39% No-38.61% resulting in a narrow loss.

Agency Support:

POC: Linda Hendy

Finance Director, Cambria Community Healthcare District

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Attachments:

- **Letters of support from elected community leaders**
- **Press articles highlighting the need for the project**
- **Planning document – dates will be updated upon funding**