



**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

May 3, 2024

The Honorable Tom Cole  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for the San Miguel Fire Department Emergency Operations Center project in Fiscal Year 2025. The entity to receive funding for this project is the San Miguel Community Services District, located at 1765 Bonita Place, San Miguel CA, 93451. The project will be located at the San Miguel Fire Department (1150 Mission Street, San Miguel, CA 93451).

The funding would be used to build and establish an Emergency Operations Center (EOC). This Center would be located within the San Miguel Fire Department located at the northern most point of San Luis Obispo County. This EOC will be available to multiple agencies when responding to natural or man-made disasters at the north end of the county. The EOC will provide the space necessary for management and tactical activities to apply resources on scene; incident support for operational and strategic coordination, including resource acquisition, information gathering, analysis and sharing; and adequate space for outreach and communication with the media and public to keep them informed about any ongoing incident.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because there is a strong community need for an Emergency Operations Center. Public safety is a primary concern for this area and the availability of and an EOC would provide a valuable asset to the District, County, State, and local stakeholders in the event of an emergency.

San Miguel and the surrounding areas are expanding. More housing developments are planned for San Miguel and Paso Robles. Between the two, there are over 2,200 new units planned and some are already under construction. Couple this with increasing tourism and the ever-changing climate and increased risk of wildfire and flooding, there is the increasing potential for incidents where emergency services may be called in to manage a disaster.

Recently, the community experienced the tragic loss of a child who was swept away in the flooding of the Salinas River. The community also recently experienced an active shooter incident. The San Miguel Fire Department was ill-prepared as there was no adequate, dedicated space for multiple agencies to stage operations.

In the 2023, the Local Agency Formation Commission adopted the Municipal Service Review, which noted that San Miguel Fire Department lacks space, capital facilities, and equipment that may be necessary to improve the delivery of services to the district with the expected expansions.

The project has a Federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by section 614 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5196c), as amended by section 202 of the Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007 (9/11 Act).

I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J. Panetta', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jimmy Panetta  
Member of Congress