



Board of Supervisors

Santa Cruz County

JOHN MAYNARD
District 3

February 18, 2010

Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords
1728 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Giffords:

As the District 3 Supervisor, representing the eastern portion of Santa Cruz County, Arizona, I strongly support the Sonoita-Elgin Fire District's (SEFD) appropriation request. Their combination Communication/Water Facility Plan will provide for greater regional interoperability, benefiting both private citizens - taxpayers, residents and visitors - as well as the agencies which serve eastern Santa Cruz County, southeastern Pima County and western Cochise County, providing law enforcement, fire, emergency services and ambulance transport.

As experienced through numerous fires over the few years since the Sonoita-Elgin Fire District was created, providing additional water resources throughout the District would greatly enhance the firefighting capabilities of the Fire District, Arizona State Land, and US Forest Service personnel. With the pending transfer of the Certificate of Necessity (for providing ambulance transport) from the Tubac Fire District to the Sonoita-Elgin Fire District, improving the communications throughout their District, along with the Town of Patagonia and the San Rafael Valley, is paramount.

As a County Supervisor, I am aware of the implications involved with increasing taxes, even during a good economic cycle, to provide for improvements such as those covered in SEFD's plan. However, with the recent change in Arizona's tax law, it will be impossible for the District to raise the funds needed to fulfill this plan without this appropriation request. I urge you to approve the request as submitted by the Sonoita-Elgin Fire District.

Thank you for your consideration in this important matter.

Sincerely,

John Maynard
Supervisor, District 3
Santa Cruz County
Board of Supervisors