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July 27, 2026

The Honorable Patrick Ahrens
California State Assembly
1020 O Street, Suite 6110
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: State Funding Request for the City of Sunnyvale – Fire Apparatus

Dear Assemblymember Ahrens:

On behalf of the City of Sunnyvale, I would like to express our sincere gratitude for your past and ongoing support of our city and region.

Larry Klein
Mayor

Richard Mehlinger
Vice Mayor

Alysa Cisneros
Councilmember

Murali Srinivasan
Councilmember

Linda Sell
Councilmember

Charlsie Chang
Councilmember

Eileen Le
Councilmember

I recognize that the current State budget and fiscal landscape are uncertain and in flux. I am writing to respectfully inquire whether there may be an opportunity to direct state funding toward a critical public safety need for Sunnyvale.

The City of Sunnyvale seeks \$1,000,000 from the General Fund or Proposition 4, Chapter 3 (Wildfire and Forest Resilience) funding to enable the Department of Public Safety (DPS) to purchase a much-needed ladder fire apparatus to replace a unit that has reached the end of its reliable service life. This investment is essential to maintaining effective emergency response capabilities, ensuring firefighter safety, and preserving operational readiness for complex incidents such as multi-story structure fires, technical rescues, and providing coverage during increasingly frequent wildland-urban interface fire events. Sunnyvale has enabled the development of multiple high-rise residential projects, and this apparatus is critical to help make sure that our high-rise residents are safe.

This apparatus would also support regional mutual aid responses, allowing Sunnyvale to continue meeting its obligations and assisting neighboring jurisdictions during large-scale emergencies. DPS has an active apparatus build team in place, including subject matter experts, Fleet staff, and a manufacturer aligned on core specifications to ensure the vehicle is durable, maintainable, and cost-effective over its lifecycle. State funding would directly support the timely replacement of critical fire infrastructure and strengthen both local and regional emergency response capacity.

I understand the magnitude of a \$1 million request. However, as climate change accelerates and wildfire risks grow more frequent and severe, Sunnyvale must be equipped to meet increasing demands by deploying its wildland rigs. Therefore, this ladder fire apparatus will be operationally ready to provide coverage during those events. Without this funding, the City will be forced to rely on aging and unreliable apparatus that could fail during an emergency, potentially putting lives at risk.

I am confident this request aligns with the goals of both the General Fund and Proposition 4 and represents a prudent and impactful investment of state resources. Thank you for your consideration and for your continued commitment to protecting our environment, our community, and our residents. Please do not hesitate to contact me or Michelle Zahraie, Sr. Management Analyst at mzahraie@sunnyvale.ca.gov, if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Larry Klein
Mayor

cc: City Council
Tim Kirby, City Manager
Sarah Johnson-Rios, Assistant City Manager