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JOHN GARAMENDI  
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March 20, 2026

The Honorable Tom Cole, Chairman  
The Honorable Rosa DeLauro, Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Mark Amodei, Chairman  
The Honorable Henry Cuellar, Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Homeland Security  
Committee on Appropriations

Dear Chairmen Cole and Amodei and Ranking Members DeLauro and Cuellar:

I respectfully request funding for the El Cerrito Hillside Natural Area Fuel Modification Project in fiscal year 2027. The entity to receive funding for this project is the City of El Cerrito, located at 10890 San Pablo Ave, El Cerrito, CA 94530.

This Community Project Funding would be used for long-term, permanent risk reduction by implementing researched, best-practice wildfire fuels mitigation treatment activities. The project would take place in the Hillside Natural Area, which is identified as a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone (VHFHSZ). The current situation poses an immediate threat to the residents living in the residential area surrounding the Hillside Natural Area, which includes 2,853 homes.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because it would help prevent future wildfire natural disasters, likely saving lives and property. The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by Section 203 of the *Stafford Act* (42 U.S.C. 5133), as amended by Section 1234, National Public Infrastructure Pre-Disaster Hazard Mitigation, of the *Disaster Recovery Reform Act (DRRA) of 2018*.

I certify that I have no financial interest in this project and neither does my immediate family. Thank you for your leadership and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John Garamendi".

JOHN GARAMENDI  
Member of Congress