



### NEWS RELEASE

September 28, 2009

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### Stimulus Money to Help Fund New City Fire Station

More than \$2 million in Federal economic stimulus funds have been awarded to the City of Santa Maria, to help build a new fire station in Preisker Park. The grant award was announced on Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's website on Friday, September 25.

The \$2,020,806 will greatly assist the City in moving forward with this approximately \$3.44 million project, which has been planned for years. The City plans to use an additional pot of economic stimulus money totaling \$341,281 toward the project; those funds were previously allocated to the City earlier this year in the Community Development Block Grant-Recovery funds.

"We are thrilled to receive this grant, which could not have come at a better time," Acting Fire Chief Jeff Jones said. "This relocation will greatly assist us in improving response times to the busiest part of the City."

The existing City Fire Station No. 3 is located in a 70-year-old house that was moved to its current location in 1980 and converted into a fire station. This station, at 1527 N. College Drive, has the highest call volume of any of the City's four fire stations. This station will be replaced with the new building at Preisker Park.

Only seven agencies throughout California - including Santa Maria - received funding from the Recovery Act Fire Station Construction Grants program.

The City made its application in July 2009. More than 8,000 agencies nationally submitted applications and competition was tough, with only \$210 million available. Each application was scored according to priorities established by the Department of Homeland Security, then to peer reviews panels for evaluation. Panelists scored applications based on the clarity of the project description and budget, the cost/benefit of the project, the financial need of the applicant and the effect the project will have on the applicant's community.

The City owns the land where it plans to construct the station, and architectural plans have been drawn.

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The City's newest fire station is Station No. 4 at 2637 S. College Drive, built in 2005. In 2008, the City assumed control from the County of Station No. 6 at the Santa Maria Airport.

Questions may be directed to the City Fire Department at 925-0951 ext. 255, or to Mark van de Kamp, Management Analyst II in the City Manager's Office, 925-0951 ext. 372.

<b>Department:</b>	<b>Fire Department</b>
<b>Contact Person:</b>	<b>Jeff Jones, Acting Fire Chief</b>
<b>Telephone Number:</b>	<b>(805) 925-0951 ext. 255</b>
<b>Email Address:</b>	<b><a href="mailto:jjones@ci.santa-maria.ca.us">jjones@ci.santa-maria.ca.us</a></b>