



Pliocene Ridge Community Services District

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September - 2022

Michael Vukas
USDA Rural Development
430 G Street
Davis, CA 95616

RE: Community Facilities award for Alleghany Firehouse Improvement Project

Dear Mr. Vukas:

Nearly three years have passed since USDA Rural Development notified Pliocene Ridge CSD that our application for a total project cost of \$38,000 (materials only) was awarded for the Alleghany Firehouse Improvement Project.

As you know, this project was developed to address significant issues with the firehouse in Alleghany located at 105 Plaza court. The engineering and other requirements caused this project to grow into something much larger than initially imagined. On top of that, there was the pandemic and the corresponding rise in the cost of building materials.

District management determined in early 2020 that the scope of the project was too large for our volunteer workforce to provide the labor. Estimates obtained in 2021 for having the entire project completed by a contractor came to \$200,000. While 75% funding for that amount is probably obtainable through the Community Facilities program, the commitment of the remaining \$50,000 was not something that the district could embrace without first stepping back and examining the capital expenditure priorities of the district as a whole.

The District Board and Management have determined that the district's highest capital expenditure priority* at this time is two-fold: the Pike City Fire Department's water tender is in high demand, mostly by several surrounding agencies. It is a 1976 Ford and is in constant need of maintenance. Upgrading this water tender is a high priority that is directly related to the second part of the district's highest need: addressing the lack of large engine bay space at the Pike City Firehouse. Not only does the Pike City Firehouse lack an engine bay large enough for a water tender, it also lacks an engine bay large enough for a modern structure truck (engine). Our goal is to find the best way to add two large engine bays at the Pike City Firehouse location and to upgrade the water tender.

Pliocene Ridge CSD sincerely appreciates the assistance of USDA Rural Development and will be in touch about possible assistance with these projects. As such, we feel that it is best to terminate the agreement for the Alleghany Firehouse Improvement Project at this time. Your understanding is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Rae Bell Arbogast,
District Manager

* Another current priority is to create an ADA accessible meeting space at the Pike City Firehouse. A simple solution has been identified for now, but possibly an additional solution will be tied into the bigger Pike City firehouse project.