



CONTRA COSTA COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CON FIRE ANNOUNCES RECEIPT OF AERIAL FIREFIGHTING GRANT FROM CALIFORNIA FIRE FOUNDATION AND PG&E

\$12,500 Grant to Purchase Additional Aerial Firefighting Bucket for Fire-Vulnerable Wildland-Urban Interface Areas

CONCORD, CALIF., November 13, 2018 – Contra Costa County Fire Protection District (Con Fire) today announced receipt of a \$12,500 grant from the California Fire Foundation, a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, in cooperation with PG&E, for specialized aerial firefighting equipment to aid in the suppression of wildland and other fires District-wide.

The grant will be used to purchase a much-needed aerial firefighting bucket, a collapsible bucket suspended from a helicopter and used for lifting and dumping water or fire retardant chemicals in support of firefighting operations. The bucket will supplement existing equipment and extend the firefighting capabilities of the partnership between the Contra Costa County Sheriff's Office and Con Fire for aerial firefighting.

"We're pleased to announce receipt of this grant, which will contribute immensely to our wildland fire-fighting abilities," said Jeff Carman, Fire Chief, Contra Costa County Fire Protection District. "The additional fire bucket we'll acquire as a result, will allow us to immediately reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfires such as we have seen around the state this fire season."

"It is a pleasure to approve this grant to provide specialized equipment in support of Contra Costa County Fire Protection District's aerial firefighting program," said Hedi Jalon, Executive Director, California Fire Foundation. "The Foundation is honored to support this project and we wish the district and its partners much success."

The grant directly supports Con Fire's efforts to quickly suppress fires in often hard-to-access and densely-populated wildland-urban interface and grassland areas before they are able to threaten homes, businesses and other property. It will be used in the 304-square-mile district, as well as in six surrounding partner agency areas where Con Fire provides aid.

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The funding of this additional helicopter bucket doubles the district's capability to extinguish fires from the air and will also provide an important backup to the existing bucket in the event of maintenance or equipment failure, ensuring aerial firefighting capabilities are always available.

Con Fire partners with the Contra Costa County Sheriff's Office, staffing its two Bell 407 helicopters with fire personnel. The aircraft are available for daily firefighting operations throughout the county.

Helicopters are very effective in quickly getting water directly to the head of a fire, thus slowing and sometimes fully extinguishing the fire, potentially reducing the need for on-scene resources. The quicker these fires are slowed or stopped, the less damage homes and the community suffer, and the safer operations are for both firefighters and nearby community members.

About Contra Costa County Fire Protection District

Contra Costa County Fire Protection District is a recognized fire service leader providing fire and emergency medical services to more than a million people across a 304 square-mile area, in and around the 20 cities of Contra Costa County, California. In 2017, the District responded to nearly 74,000 fire and EMS emergencies and provided expert medical care in the conduct of more than 75,000 ambulance transports. The District with 25 fire stations and some 400 employees is dedicated to the preservation of life, property and the environment.

About California Fire Foundation

The California Fire Foundation, a non-profit 501 (c)(3) organization, provides emotional and financial assistance to families of fallen firefighters, firefighters and the communities they protect. Formed in 1987 by California Professional Firefighters, the California Fire Foundation's mandate includes an array of survivor and victim assistance projects and community initiatives.

About PG&E

Pacific Gas and Electric Company, a subsidiary of PG&E Corporation (NYSE:PCG), is one of the largest combined natural gas and electric utilities in the United States. Based in San Francisco, with more than 20,000 employees, the company delivers some of the nation's cleanest energy to nearly 16 million people in Northern and Central California. For more information, visit www.pge.com/ and www.pge.com/en/about/newsroom/index.page.

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The grant will be used to purchase a much-needed aerial firefighting bucket, a collapsible bucket suspended from a helicopter and used for lifting and dumping water or fire retardant chemicals in support of firefighting operations. The so-called “Bambi” bucket will supplement existing equipment and extend the firefighting capabilities of the partnership between the Contra Costa County Sheriff’s Office and Con Fire for aerial firefighting.



Contra Costa Sheriff's Department Helicopter Attacks Vegetation Fire Using Bambi Bucket

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