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California Water Service Bestows More Than \$185,000 in Grants to Seven Fire Departments

SAN JOSE, Calif., Nov. 17, 2022 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) -- California Water Service (Cal Water) today announced the recipients of its fourth annual Firefighter Grant Program; the utility provided a total of \$185,763 in grants to seven fire departments, surpassing last year's \$175,000.

The program started in 2019 with \$60,000 allocated for grant funds; however, due to the popularity of the program and expressed needs of the applicants, Cal Water has now more than tripled its giving. The grants are designed to offset costs associated with fire protection efforts, life-saving equipment, and training.

Cal Water awarded its 2022 grants to the following departments based on need for resources to protect the life and property of citizens or firefighters:

- Bakersfield Fire Department, for ventilation fans used during structural firefighting operations
- Marysville Fire Department, for five self-contained breathing apparatuses, which allow firefighters to breathe clean air while in dangerous environments
- Ventura County Fire Protection District, for portable firefighting pumps
- Salinas Fire Department, for an AI-driven autonomous flight engine
- North County Fire Authority (Daly City), for a large-diameter fire hose
- Sonoma County Fire District, for wildland firefighting equipment, including a fire hose, wildland hose packs, web gear, fire shelters, hose appliances, and scene mop-up equipment
- Redwood City Fire Department, for a complement of large-diameter and attack hoses

"Fire departments and water providers depend on one another to protect their local communities. That is why elevating our partnership by offering grants to supplement life-saving equipment makes perfect sense," said Martin A. Kropelnicki, Cal Water President and CEO. "For the past four years, we have had the honor of helping the first responders who risk their lives to protect ours, and we look forward to opening the 2023 cycle next summer."

The firefighter grants are funded through Cal Water's philanthropic giving program and do not impact customer rates.

California Water Service serves approximately 2 million people through 494,500 customer connections in California. The utility has provided water service in the state since 1926. For more information, visit www.calwater.com.