



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **The City of East Palo Alto receives Federal Funding to Improve the O'Connor Pump Station and Build Small Business Incubator**

*Federal legislation will renew essential infrastructure and empower small businesses*

**East Palo Alto, Calif., (April 7, 2022)** - The City of East Palo Alto received Community Project Funding of \$1.355 million as part of the 2022 Federal Budget, which was signed by President Biden on Friday, March 11. The City of East Palo Alto will use these funds to (1) improve a critical piece of the City's water-management infrastructure, and (2) provide vital support to local small businesses and non-profit organizations.

#### O'Connor Pump Station Stormwater Management Improvements

The City of East Palo Alto's O'Connor Pump Station provides flood protection for low-lying residential areas in the eastern portion of the City. As an essential function of the City's infrastructure, the Pump Station requires extensive routine maintenance and upgrades to be effective in providing service to and safeguarding our neighborhoods.

"This project is a great use of federal funds because it protects people living in East Palo Alto from flooding caused by pump failure, and it protects the environment from unfiltered stormwater during major storm events," said Representative Jackie Speiers (CA-14).

"Very few of us drive a car that is 50 years old, yet East Palo Alto has been relying on 50-year-old diesel engines to protect the public. It's time to retire these outmoded workhorses and give the residents of East Palo Alto protection through modern diesel engines that will reduce pollution for nearby residents and for wildlife in the sensitive habitat around the pump station. I am thrilled this win-win is possible with federal funding."

East Palo Alto Mayor Ruben Abrica said, "Congresswoman Jackie Speiers' advocacy for an investment of \$800,000 in the O'Connor Pump Station will ensure that the City is better able to protect residents from back flooding in the event of heavy rains and potential flood events."

#### Small Business Incubator Facility

Originally acquired several years ago through a mixed-used development negotiation, the City owns an unfinished 1,000 square foot commercial space – known as Cummings Loft - that was intended as an incubator for small businesses and non-profits in East Palo Alto that were on the verge of being displaced due to gentrification.

“The allocation of \$555,000 in federal funds will allow us to accelerate the creation of a Small Business Incubator that advances social and economic equity and empowers local residents, businesses, and non-profit organizations to sustain and grow,” said Mayor Ruben Abrica.

“The East Palo Alto Small Business Incubator is an initiative designed to create a location in East Palo Alto that will help local small businesses and nonprofits grow. This federal funding will help assist with construction and design costs to make this incubator a reality. I was pleased to help secure these funds that will help expand local economies and create jobs,” said Senator Dianne Feinstein.

The City of East Palo Alto expects to advance the East Palo Alto Small Business Incubator at Cummings Loft in the 2022-2023 Fiscal Year.

### **About the City of East Palo Alto**

East Palo Alto has a rich history of cultural diversity, pursuing social and environmental justice outcomes, and being a welcoming community. Today, East Palo Alto is pursuing several initiatives to improve the overall quality of life for all residents and visitors alike. Learn more about the City of East Palo Alto by visiting <https://www.ci.east-palo-alto.ca.us> , on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/CityOfEastPaloAlto> and on Twitter at [https://twitter.com/City\\_EPA](https://twitter.com/City_EPA)

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