



September 19, 2019

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 293 (Skinner) – Infrastructure financing districts: formation: issuance of bonds: City of Oakland. **(SUPPORT – Request for Signature)**

Dear Governor Newsom:

The California Professional Firefighters (CPF) and on behalf of the Oakland Firefighters, Local #55, express our support for SB 293, which has been approved by the Legislature and is on its way to your desk for consideration. ***We respectfully request your signature on this bill when it comes before you.***

SB 293 will authorize the City of Oakland to form an Infrastructure Financing District (IFD), which is an essential tool and funding source for the projects identified in the bill, which includes critical public safety infrastructure such as fire stations. With the formation of an IFD, the City of Oakland will be able to fully invest in its community, remediate toxic contamination, and mitigate other environmental justice and public safety issues.

The City of Oakland has a thriving waterfront with massive shipping traffic, thousands of newly built housing units, a major league ballpark in the planning stages and no fire station to protect any of it. SB 293 establishes procedures for the City of Oakland to form an Infrastructure Financing District (IFD), which will be an essential funding source in their ongoing redevelopment of their waterfront area.

Allowing the city to form an IFD will allow them to issue bonds to finance vital community improvements, which include the funding to finance the design, purchase, construction, expansion, improvement, seismic retrofit, or rehabilitation of fire stations in the area to best serve and protect the public. Senator Skinner's bill will help us ensure that our public safety infrastructure is adequate to match the growing needs of the City of Oakland. For these reasons, **we urge your signature on this important bill.**

Sincerely,

CHRISTY BOUMA
Governmental Advocate

CB:ay

c: Senator Skinner
Zac Unger, Oakland Firefighters Local 55