

A message from:

Mayor Jerry Sanders



A year ago, just weeks after taking office, I was slapped with the news that the San Diego region had been taken off of the primary funding list for Department of Homeland Security Urban Areas Security Initiative grants and put on a perilous secondary funding list. Our presence on that bottom-level funding list for a second consecutive year would have meant that San Diego would permanently lose access to the largest pot of federal Homeland Security dollars.

As a result of that terrible news, we leapt into action to correct this problem. The City Council, County Board of Supervisors, our Congressional Delegation, Senators Boxer and Feinstein and the Governor all made this a top priority. Additionally, every trip that I have made to Washington over the past year included a significant homeland security component.

Today, we formally received the great news that our efforts paid off. San Diego is once again on the primary funding list. This means that we now have the ability to compete for more than \$336 million in funding for the current fiscal year.

Let me put the importance of this effort in perspective for the average San Diego family. You elected me and my fellow elected officials to do everything possible to prepare ourselves for the unfortunate results of either natural or man-made disasters. We have made great strides since 9/11 and even more since the Cedar Fires three years ago. But much remains to be done. The entire San Diego region will now benefit. Our presence on the primary funding list will give our region the opportunity to apply for grants funds that will allow us to become even better prepared. If we are successful, we will use these funds to better our ability to communicate county-wide and for public safety equipment.

The Homeland Security Grant Program Overview is available at the following link: http://www.sandiego.gov/mayor/pdf/uasi_grants2007.pdf