



**Office of the Auditor-Controller**

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Greetings Residents of Butte County:

It is my honor and privilege to report to you that the Butte County 2019-20 fiscal year budget was unanimously adopted by the Board of Supervisors on June 25, 2019. The 2018-19 fiscal year closed out with an unaudited fund balance carryover of \$14,012,087. The fund balance available at the final close, after all accounting adjustments for revenue and expenditures, was higher than the amount estimated in the final budget recommendation of \$11,800,000, providing an increase to the Appropriations for Contingencies of \$2,212,087 as directed by the Board of Supervisors. This fund balance maintains the existing General Reserve of \$8 million and increases Budgeted Appropriation for Contingencies to \$9,512,087 for the 2019-20 fiscal year.

As we approach the first anniversary of the most destructive wildfire in California's history, forever engrained in our memory as the Camp Fire, we are reminded by the tragedy our community has endured. The fire burned 153,336 acres and damaged or destroyed more than 19,000 structures. 85 of our community members perished and more than 14,000 families were displaced on November 8, 2018.

As we look to the road ahead, we are encouraged by the resilience of our community. 10,442 properties have been certified clean and 170 building permit applications have been received. We appreciate all those individuals and organizations, including our neighbors all across the State, that assisted with the rescue, response and now recovery efforts. Our state and federal leaders were instrumental in speaking for the needs of our County, which helped provide much needed funding, such as AB 72 (Chapter 1, Statutes of 2019) that will provide three years of property tax backfill revenue.

We have major initiatives addressed in the fiscal year 2019-20 adopted budget that primarily address the goal of maintaining service levels, while also advancing the recovery and stability to the community and organization. The Board of Supervisors adopted increased resources to fund anticipated increased expenses related to the Camp Fire. We anticipate higher volume of building permit applications, as well as the need for dedicated criminal prosecution. We plan to re-open operational facilities to address service needs in Paradise. The funding for the Primary Election will include satellite voting locations for voters displaced by the Camp Fire. There are increased expenditures at the Neal Road Recycling and Waste Facility for debris removal and Road Fund projects for emergency repairs. Additionally, we are challenged with unanticipated initiatives, for example an increase in resources for grant management related to disaster programs, such as for disaster response, and for debris and tree removal. Also, funding to address the homelessness crisis in Butte County, and additional resources to maintain operational continuity during the public safety power shutoff imposed by PG&E, are among the unanticipated initiatives.

We will address each one of these initiatives with fiscal transparency and accountability to our taxpayers for the dollars we are entrusted with.

We are Butte County Strong!

  
Graciela C. Gutierrez  
Auditor-Controller