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Legislative Request – Camp Fire 2018

Butte County (on behalf of entities receiving property tax), Town of Paradise,
City of Chico, City of Oroville, City of Biggs and City of Gridley

Federal Short Term Needs

Congressional authority/approval for FEMA to reimburse 100% of response and recovery costs instead of the current 90%, for all jurisdictions impacted by the Camp Fire.

Federal Long Term Needs

Legislative authority/approval to waive the USDA population threshold for the Town of Paradise making them eligible for various USDA funding opportunities.

Financial assistance to install a sewer system for the commercial portion of the Town of Paradise, at a minimum, in lieu of replacing existing septic tanks. The Town of Paradise, with a population of 27,000, depends on over 11,000 individual septic systems to treat and dispose of wastewater from homes and businesses, with high groundwater, poor soils, and limited land (estimated cost of \$64-\$83 million).

Financial assistance for preparedness and mitigation funding for the Town of Paradise for fire response including funds for an additional fire station at Pentz and Pearson to improve response times, a fire ladder truck for suppression efforts, a road from fire station 35 to Skyway to improve response times.

Financial assistance for a replacement public safety radio system for the Town of Paradise and enhancement to the County's system. The Town's current system relies on outdated copper wire that is not being replaced by utility companies. The County is in the process of implementing a new system and identified a number of unmet needs including additional needed coverage in the Butte Meadows area, additional radios for use during emergencies, encryption functionality and funding for support and upgrades.

Funding to restore non-federal aid roads to pre-disaster condition throughout the county including from the impacts of debris removal (Paradise has 70 miles with an estimated cost \$10 million. Butte County and other municipalities are also impacted).

Legislative approval and funding for evacuation routes and wildfire safety efforts throughout the County (Specific needs TBD).

Resolved Needs

Federal approval of permanent work (categories C-G i.e. public infrastructure, water systems, utilities, etc.) was granted December 11th.

Federal reimbursement of Camp Fire related costs was increased from 75% to 90% (**Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2019**)

State Short Term Needs

Legislative authority/approval for the State to cover the full amount of response and *recovery* costs not covered by FEMA for all impacted jurisdictions, thereby eliminating the local share. **(AB 41, Gallagher)**

Legislative authority/approval for the State to backfill lost revenues to all impacted agencies related to the Camp Fire for up to ten years, with the first payment before June 30, 2019. Specifically:

- Five (5) years of countywide property tax backfill, to **all impacted jurisdictions** including AB8, VLF in lieu, Property Tax Homeowners Exemption funds, RDA Successor Agency funds and Teeter Plan revenues. ***Partially Resolved - The Governor recently signed AB 72, which provides three years of property tax backfill.***
- Sales and Use Tax backfill for two (2) years for **Butte County, the Town of Paradise and other affected agencies** (estimate \$3.2 million annually for the Town of Paradise; \$180,000 annually for Butte County)
- Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) backfill for two (2) years for the **cities of Biggs, Chico, Gridley, and Oroville, and the Town of Paradise** who suffer TOT losses (estimate Paradise \$400,000 annually; Chico \$400,000 - \$1million annually; Oroville, Gridley, and Biggs TBD).
- Operating revenue support for the **Town of Paradise** for 10 years (Town's General Fund revenues are approximately \$13 million/year), and backfill of lost Highway Users Gas Tax for the Town of Paradise to maintain 100 miles of public roads (\$1 million annually).

Legislative authority/approval for revenue backfill and facility/infrastructure repairs for Paradise Irrigation District (estimate \$10 million/year for 5 years).

Updated Legislative authority/approval for revenue backfill for special districts due to lost revenue and property tax base. (Chico Area Recreation District estimates \$131,000 in lost revenue.)

Legislative authority/approval for funding for public safety services, road maintenance and other governmental services for jurisdictions that host Camp Fire survivors. Large numbers of survivors have relocated to jurisdictions throughout the county and more will be relocated as FEMA housing sites are established and the shelter in Chico closes down. The result is dramatic increases in the size of these communities. Growth that would normally happen over a decade or more occurred overnight increasing costs to provide public safety, road, sewer and all government services. (Gridley estimates \$500,000/year; Chico estimates \$6,100,000/year).

Legislative authority/approval for funding and disposal solutions for the timber and biomass debris associated with the Camp Fire.

Legislative authority/approval for funding for surface and ground water quality monitoring through the California State Water Resources Control Board.

Legislative authority/approval for adjustments to land use regulations still to be determined (i.e., extensions of tentative maps approved under the Map Act that are scheduled to expire, modifications of reporting requirements for annual Housing Element progress reports, and modifications of the Regional Housing Needs Allocation requirements). **(SB 249, Nielsen addresses the extensions to tentative maps).**

State absorption of CAL FIRE contract costs for the Town of Paradise for two (2) years. (approx. \$4 million/year for Town of Paradise).

Updated State absorption of a portion of the CAL FIRE contract costs for Butte County for two (2) years.

Legislative authority/approval for a CEQA exemption for new housing and mixed-use developments with substantial new housing for the next 36-48 months. **(AB 430 and AB 431, Gallagher)**

Legislative authority/approval for funding for an Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) for the City of Chico as a result of the significant increase in daily traffic flows. An ITS would provide upgraded traffic signals combined with new detection technology for real-time monitoring and traffic circulation improvements. These systems improve safety through adaptive detection of vehicles, which leads to decreased congestion and reductions in traffic collisions. (Estimated cost of \$12,000,000).

State Long Term Needs

Legislative approval and funding for evacuation routes and wildfire safety efforts throughout the County.

Financial assistance for a replacement public safety radio system for the Town of Paradise and enhancement to the County's system. The Town's current system relies on outdated copper wire that is not being replaced by utility companies. The County is in the process of implementing a new system and identified a number of unmet needs including additional needed coverage in the Butte Meadows area, additional radios for use during emergencies, encryption functionality and funding for support and upgrades.

Resolved Needs

Inclusion of commercial properties in the debris removal program for the Town of Paradise.

Three years of Property Tax backfill approved **(AB 72)**.