



Information and General Services Department

Office of Emergency Services

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NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Board Agenda Memo

MEETING DATE: January 24, 2023

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Steve Monaghan – IGS-Emergency Management

SUBJECT: Acceptance of the Office of Emergency Services Request to Terminate the Local Emergency for the August 2020 Jones Fire and accept state and federal funds for reimbursement of fire response costs.

RECOMMENDATION: Accept the state and federal funds received by the County of Nevada stemming from the August 2020 Jones Fire. Additionally, accept the staff recommendation to terminate the local emergency for the Jones Fire.

FUNDING: County of Nevada was reimbursed by the state and FEMA \$158,667 of the \$161,636 in county costs claimed.

BACKGROUND: The Jones Fire started the morning of 17th of August 2020 in the Yuba River Canyon. This was a lightning caused fire that was part of a lighting complex that started hundreds of fires across the State of California. Ultimately the Jones Fire burned 705 acres and destroyed 17 structures with no lives lost. The fire was suppressed by local and statewide CAL FIRE resources as well as numerous local fire assets. Local law enforcement managed the large-scale evacuation of over 4,000 residents with support from law enforcement agencies across northern California.

County of Nevada responded to the Jones Fire by immediately opening its Emergency Operations Center and by coordinating support to residents and first responders. This took on the form of public information updates, opening temporary evacuation centers with the Red Cross, addressing unmet needs reported by 211 and supporting the shelter of numerous displaced animals.

County of Nevada declared a local emergency on 17 August, which was ratified by the Board later that week. On 08/18/20, Governor Newsom declared a State of Emergency due to Fires and Extreme Weather Conditions. President Trump later approved a Federal Presidential Declaration for the California Fires which included Nevada County and the Jones Fire. These declarations brought in state and federal dollars to support residents and local stakeholders with recovery costs.

In 2022 staff worked through the disbursement of funds from the state and federal reimbursement for the Jones Fire costs to the County. The claim to FEMA was for \$161,636 which included County staff time, EOC costs, animal and human sheltering as well as law enforcement mutual aid. Of the \$161,636 claimed \$158,667 was reimbursed (98%). These funds were distributed to law enforcement mutual aid partners, the Fairgrounds for animal sheltering and the schools for their support in providing shelter for those displaced by the fire.

Item Initiated by: Paul Cummings
Approved by: Craig Griesbach