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NEWS ADVISORY

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More Help For Butte Fire Survivors

At the beginning of the new year, plans are underway for a unified effort in three counties to help Butte Fire survivors. Three Motherlode Community Foundations have come forward to express their commitment to that long-term recovery. Each will be assisting in accordance with the mission of their own Foundation, and will be cooperating with Calaveras Recovers and each other as plans and projects unfold. The three foundations will be meeting after the first of the year to discuss their cooperative efforts.

When fire raced through Calaveras County in September, the impacts were felt by our neighbors, Amador and Tuolumne counties, as well. Donations began to flow into the Community Foundations of all three counties: Calaveras Community Foundation, Amador Community Foundation and Sonora-Area Foundation. Our neighboring county foundations redirected that flow to Calaveras Community Foundation, which has been distributing funds to various organizations for post-fire relief efforts.

The strength and support of this joint commitment to long-term recovery is characteristic of our foothills community. When a need arises, we show up to help each other. Calaveras Recovers is empowered in our rebuilding goals by this strong support. The volunteers of Calaveras Recovers are grateful to the partner agencies, these three Community Foundations for confirming that support for us when it is needed most.

In the aftermath of the fire, Calaveras Recovers was created as an all-volunteer group of local leaders to address the Long-Term Recovery needs of those who had paid off and owned their destroyed homes but were unable to acquire or afford insurance. Working with non-profit and faith-based organizations, Calaveras Recovers is organizing the rebuilding of homes for those who otherwise would not be able to recover. Their purpose is to help assess what is needed for the long-term recovery of our watershed environment and the emotional and spiritual needs of the survivors. Calaveras Recovers is now recognized by FEMA, CalOES and Calaveras County as the long-term recovery team for unmet needs and participates in the Calaveras County Butte Fire Recovery Task Force.

Calaveras Recovers includes private, nonprofit, and government entities working as a collective body of support for those who do not have adequate personal resources for basic needs as a result of the Butte Fire disaster. Calaveras Recovers is growing from an independent network of agencies supporting individuals hurt by the wild fire into an entity able to carry on the work of long-term recovery, specifically by building new homes for those survivors who were uninsured.

More information on Calaveras Recovers, the post-Butte Fire long-term recovery team, can be found on the website www.CalaverasRecovers.org and via mail at **P.O.Box 395, Mountain Ranch, CA 95246**.

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MISSION STATEMENT

Calaveras Recovers is the post-disaster coordination of resources to provide support and guidance to those individuals and families devastated by the regional disaster, whose recovery needs are not met by insurance or government aid programs.