



**MEMORANDUM**  
**PUBLIC WORKS**  
**ROAD MAINTENANCE DIVISION**  
County of Placer

TO: Board of Supervisors

DATE: April 23, 2019

FROM: Ken Grehm, Director of Public Works  
By: Kevin Taber, Engineering Manager

SUBJECT: Road Maintenance / Storm Response 2019

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**ACTION REQUESTED**

Receive a presentation regarding the Road Maintenance Division's response during the storms of early 2019. No action by the Board of Supervisors is requested or required of this item.

**BACKGROUND**

California is officially drought-free for the first time since December 2011, according to the United States Drought Monitor map released March 19, 2019. Placer County's Road Maintenance Crews spent the better part of January and February 2019 keeping our county roads open during the storms that ended this drought.

At many locations, recorded snowfall totals in February set monthly snowfall records. Squaw Valley and Alpine Meadows measured over 300 inches in February, beating the old record set in 2017. According to *The Sacramento Bee*, that amount exceeded the previous February record by more than 100 inches and set a record for the most snow in any month by 18 inches. In one 24-hour period in late February, over 42 inches of snow fell in the Serene Lakes subdivision, and nearly that amount on Tahoe's west shore.

Travel was difficult at best during these storms on all area roadways, with closures of Interstate 80 and Highway 50 being a common occurrence. Union Pacific closed its railroad tracks over Donner Summit due to avalanche concerns.

The County's storm response was not limited to eastern Placer County. During the coldest storm of the season, snow removal efforts started in Auburn, prompting an all-hands response from County crews. In the Todd Valley/Foresthill area, maintenance crews went on 24-hour snow plowing shifts twice during the month of February. As of late March, the Foresthill crew is still removing fallen trees from remote County roads. In the far western part of the County, widespread flooding occurred. County roads west of Lincoln remained closed for over a week at several locations.

Placer County is unique in that it is one of only a few Counties in California that requires snow plowing and concurrent flood response on a regular basis with a winter such as 2018/19. Countywide, crews worked long hours in an attempt to keep up with snow and rainfall related issues. Crews worked continuously, 24-hours per day, for 21 straight days starting February 2nd and then after a brief break, they worked 13 straight days starting February 25.

Over the three pay periods, 42 days, starting January 19, Road Maintenance crews worked a total of 6,981 overtime hours, or 166 hours of overtime per day. That included 3,226 hours from February 2 - February 15.

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT**

None

**FISCAL IMPACT**

None

