



**MEMORANDUM
COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICE
ADMINISTRATION**
County of Placer

TO: Honorable Board of Supervisors
FROM: Todd Leopold, County Executive Officer
BY: Sarah Poindexter, Management Analyst II
SUBJECT: 2021 Fire Season Review

DATE: November 9, 2021

ACTION REQUESTED

Receive a presentation from CAL FIRE/Placer County Fire on the impacts of the 2021 wildfire season to Placer County and the surrounding region.

BACKGROUND

Recent wildfires have been the deadliest, most destructive, costliest, and largest in state history. The fire season of 2021 was marked by more historic wildfires, most notably the Dixie fire which became the second largest wildfire in California history, burning 963,309 acres across five counties.

On August 4, 2021, the River Fire ignited near Colfax, burning 2,619 acres of land, destroying 102 residential structures and 39 other structures, and damaging an additional 21 residential structures within Placer and Nevada counties. In total, over 200 wildland fires occurred in Placer County, 98% of which were successfully stopped at 10 acres or less.

Fuel reduction activities are ongoing within the county, including the North Fork American River Shaded Fuel Break, which was identified in 2019 by the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection as one of the primary fuel reduction projects within the state of California. This fuel break will eventually span 17 miles, serving to protect Placer County communities from the City of Auburn to the City of Colfax as well as critical infrastructure such as the Union Pacific Rail Line, Interstate 80, and the Kinder Morgan Petroleum Pipeline from the effects of destructive wildfire.

Preparing for wildfire remains crucial. Fuel reduction activities as described above remain effective mechanisms for slowing the spread of wildfire. Residents must also do their part to maintain defensible space on their properties and are encouraged to harden their homes and remain vigilant during periods of critical fire weather.

FISCAL IMPACT

No action is being requested as a result of this presentation, therefore there is no fiscal impact.

ATTACHMENTS

None

