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STAFF REPORT

Date: November 3, 2021  
To: TRPA Advisory Planning Commission  
From: TRPA Staff  
Subject: Update on the Caldor Fire

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Summary and Staff Recommendation:

Staff will provide an update on the Caldor Fire Recovery and Restoration. This will include an update on the Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) Report and the Watershed Emergency Response Team (WERT) Report. The phases of fire recovery include 1) fire suppression and repair, 2) emergency stabilization, and 3) long-term recovery and restoration.

The Caldor Fire is still in the fire suppression repair phase while simultaneously moving into the emergency stabilization phase. During this phase, a BAER team conducts a rapid assessment of the burn area to identify imminent post-wildfire threats to human life and safety, property, and critical natural resources on National Forest System Land. It identifies and recommends projects to be implemented to mitigate the immediate risks found post-fire. It also includes a funding request to the U.S. Forest Service Washington Office to cover cost of the projects. The BAER summary report was released to the public on October 21, 2021.

The state WERT team, led by CalFire and California Geological Survey, is conducting a rapid assessment of potential Values-at-Risk (VAR) on private property and state responsible areas from post-fire debris flow, flooding, hazard trees, etc. The WERT report will recommend emergency protective measures to protect the VARs. This process is completed simultaneously and in coordination with the BAER process. The draft WERT report has been released to cooperating agencies and identifies 76 VARs including residential structures, highway infrastructure, water system infrastructure, and water quality.

Protecting water quality is a top priority of the BAER and WERT teams. The WERT team is using modelling to forecast potential increased sediment yield as a result of the fire. The current modelling results predict up to a 20% sediment yield increase into Lake Tahoe due to the fire. Agencies are working together to stabilize as much as possible prior to increased precipitation. The final report is currently undergoing agency review and will be released to the public soon.

Contact Information:

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