LESSONS LEARNED: RECOVERY AFTER THE CAMP FIRE

Steve Crowder, Town of Paradise Mayor
Kevin Phillips, Town Manager, Town of Paradise
Colette Curtis, Recovery and Economic Development Director, Town of Paradise
“The Camp Fire spread as fast as 80 football fields per minute.” – After Action Report

Camp Fire Losses

- 85 fatalities
- 18,800 structures
- 90% of Paradise’s housing stock
- Over 27% of the County’s mobile home units
- Housing for 10% of the construction workforce
- All 1,200 businesses closed, with approximately 350 re-opened to date
Destroyed Structure Map
November 9, 2018

Red Dots Destroyed Structure
Green Dots Standing Structure
Building Permit Data
As of May 2022

- 2,297 Building Permit Applications Received
- 2,105 Building Permits Issued
- 1,347 Certificates of Occupancy Issued
- 536 Multi-Family Units Applied
- 423 Multi-Family Units Issued
- 257 Multi-Family Units Rebuilt
The Cost of Recovery

- **$1B** in CDBG-DR for disaster declarations 4407 (ours) and 4382 (two other wildfires)
- **$240M** PG&E settlement for the Town of Paradise
- **$121M** in total CIP/DR over 5 years from 17 funding sources, compared to $6-10M over 3 years pre-fire
- **$77.3M** federal dollars for road reconstruction
- **$68M** FEMA IA provided to owners and renters in Butte County
- Unsettled insurance claims for property and equipment replacement.
- State of CA provided 3 years of revenue backfill for lost property tax funds to the Town. (2018 – 2021FYE)
- 16 recovery projects funded by Butte Strong Fund, NVCF
Lessons Learned

Employee Care
Plan for the Worst
Stress Test
Insurance
Communication
Regional Partnerships
Employee Care

- All Town Staff impacted
- Most lost homes
- Logistical/Housing issues
- Trauma
Plan for the Worst

- The Camp Fire far surpassed our “worst case scenario”
- Plan for what you think is the worst that could happen, then multiply it by 10
Stress Test Your Insurance

- Challenges with Insurance
- The Town is still working to settle with insurance three and a half years later
Communicatio

- Most important non-first responder function in an emergency
- Hard to get it right
- Frequent, reliable, vetted
- Role of the PIO
Regional Partnerships

- 50,000 people evacuated within 6 hours on Nov. 8, 2018

- Challenges with inter-jurisdictional evacuations

- Surrounding counties received thousands of evacuees
Planning for Recovery

- Long Term Community Recovery Plan
- Public Input
- Professional consultant with disaster experience
Managing Recovery Projects

Town-Led Projects
• Hazard Tree Removal
• Early Warning System
• Weed Abatement
• Sustainable Fiscal Model
• General Plan / Housing Element
• Sewer Service Area
• Transportation Master Plan
• Walkable Downtown
• New Fire Station 82
• Resident Fire Safe Education
• New Civic Center
• Opportunity Zone

Partner-Led Projects
• Underground Utilities
• Cultural Recovery
• Economic Development Strategy
Discussion

Panel
Steve Crowder – Mayor, Town of Paradise
Kevin Phillips – Town Manager, Town of Paradise
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