



November 1, 2021

The Honorable Sue Novasel  
District V Supervisor  
Board of Supervisors  
County of El Dorado  
330 Fair Lane, Building A  
Placerville, CA 95667

**Re: Request for Support - Small Business/NonProfit Grant Program  
Funding from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)**

Dear Supervisor Novasel:

As you are keenly aware, it is the job of a chamber of commerce to listen closely to the needs of our business community and to support and advocate on their behalf. As you are also aware, after a hopeful start to the summer of 2021, those in our eastern El Dorado County business community again faced multiple challenges to their sustainability.

As you consider the recommendations of the County CAO's office for funding from American Rescue Plan Act during your November 2nd Board meeting, please keep the following factors in mind as you review the proposed the Small Business/NonProfit grant program:

Small businesses are the backbone of the El Dorado County economy.

After a promising start to the summer season, businesses were hit hard by the COVID-19 Delta variant and staffing shortages.

Then, from mid-August into the start of fall, by the dense smoke and the devastating flames of the Caldor Fire. In eastern El Dorado, Caldor triggered a mass evacuation of the entire South Shore. Again, businesses were forced to close.

We know the County has been hit hard, too, now having to reduce property taxes for the many Caldor Fire victims. This is the right thing to do, but certainly impacts County revenues.

The proposed Small Business/NonProfit Grant program was developed by the Business Protection Workgroup established in the County following the first COVID-19 lockdown. It was submitted as our unanimous recommendation for ARPA funding. The program is designed to help businesses remain viable and sustainable and to maintain the revenue they generate for El Dorado County.



With Board of Supervisors approval, as a workgroup member, Tahoe Chamber will be actively engaged with our colleague chambers and the El Dorado Community Foundation in the outreach to eligible businesses and nonprofits to inform them of the grant program opportunity.

Understanding your available ARPA funding is oversubscribed, we appreciate the recommendation of the County Chief Administrative Office of \$4,135,060 for this program. Tahoe Chamber will work diligently with our Business Protection Workgroup colleagues to ensure the funding is expended efficiently and effectively.

Thank you in advance for your consideration and support.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Teshara". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Steve Teshara  
Tahoe Chamber Staff

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tiffany Zabaglo". The signature is cursive and somewhat stylized, with a large initial "T".

Tiffany Zabaglo  
Chair, Board of Directors