

COUNTY OF EL DORADO

330 Fair Lane
Placerville, CA 95667
(530) 621-5390
(530) 622-3645 Fax

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November 16, 2021

U.S. Economic Development Administration, Seattle Regional Office
A. Leonard Smith, Regional Director
915 Second Ave, Room 1890
Seattle, Washington 98174

RE: Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance Programs El Dorado County
Caldor Fire – DR 4616

Dear Director Smith,

The County of El Dorado, on behalf of its Economic Development Division, submits this letter in support of Sierra Business Council's application to the Economic Development Administration (EDA) Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance (PWEAA) Programs under the Special Need criteria for the Caldor Fire, federally declared major disaster number DR-4616. The Caldor fire burned over 220,000 acres, destroyed over 1,000 structures, including 782 single family residences, 18 commercial properties, and 203 accessory structures, and also damaged 81 structures, ultimately decimating the community of Grizzly Flats, CA. Prior to the Caldor fire, the County of El Dorado was already suffering economically from extreme drought and latent impacts of the COVID-19 disasters. The Caldor Fire was a crushing blow to the County's key industry sectors, essential infrastructure, and jobs.

Economic prosperity has been negatively impacted by this devastating Caldor Fire and the County of El Dorado is in dire need of economic assistance and capacity building to begin recovery operations. A PWEAA grant will help provide essential support and resources for the development of a Disaster Recovery Plan. The County of El Dorado has worked with the Sierra Business Council (SBC) to identify a preliminary recovery strategy scope that is focused on the necessary infrastructure to ensure residents can return to their homes and jobs, supports sustainable economic development, fosters much needed high quality job creation, and builds resilience into the local economy. A PWEAA grant will help the County of El Dorado effectively plan for rebuilding and provide the necessary re-tooling required for disaster recovery.

The SBC has over 25 years of experience in economic development planning for rural communities and providing technical assistance related to community development, entrepreneurship training, workforce development, natural resource management, and government affairs. The SBC is prepared to assist with strategically aligning resources from various government, for-profit, and nonprofit entities to leverage efforts and funding resources in the planning efforts toward establishing a more resilient community. The County of El Dorado is committed to meet the required 20% match through dedicated staff time as part of the SBC project team.

The SBC is well-positioned to provide disaster recovery coordination services for the County of El Dorado and we respectfully encourage your support and approval their PWEAA2020 grant application.

Signed,

John Hidahl, Chair
El Dorado County Board of Supervisors

Clerk to the Board of Supervisors
County of El Dorado, State of California