

COUNTY OF EL DORADO

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September 30, 2021

The President
The White House
Washington DC 20500

RE: Individual Assistance for El Dorado County Victims of Caldor Fire

Dear Mr. President,

I am writing on behalf of the County of El Dorado, respectfully requesting your approval of Individual Assistance (IA) as part of your recent Major Disaster declaration for the Caldor Fire.

We appreciate that you came to view firsthand the devastation wrought by the fire, which continues to burn in El Dorado County with about 75 percent containment. And we were glad that you could hear status reports directly from representatives of Federal, State and Local emergency management and public safety agencies. The level of your personal concern was obvious, and the attention you paid to firefighting and recovery efforts—and to the men and women leading them—was a source of great encouragement to everyone involved. We especially appreciate your personal, verbal commitment to El Dorado County's Chief Administrative Officer to provide assistance to those individuals displaced by the fire, or whose homes were destroyed or damaged by it.

The fire has burned almost 350 square miles since it began on August 14, with over one thousand structures destroyed. Most of those structures were residential, leaving thousands of El Dorado County residents without permanent shelter as we head into colder weather. Our county has a higher-than-average percentage of seniors, and many of those who lost their homes—especially in the Grizzly Flats community, which was virtually leveled by the fire—are on limited incomes or otherwise vulnerable.

We know that the California Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) is working with Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) officials to provide data relevant to the IA process, including homeowner's insurance coverage figures and other indicators that

FEMA needs. We ask that you do everything in your power to move the process along expeditiously, and to help bring much-needed relief, in the form of FEMA Individual Assistance, to those in dire need.

Sincerely,

John Hidahl
Chair, Board of Supervisors

c. Senator Dianne Feinstein
 Senator Alex Padilla
 Representative Tom McClintock