



RESOLUTION No. 7

Commending the Heroic Efforts of Firefighters and Community Agencies in Response to the Caldor Fire

WHEREAS, Lake Tahoe Community College District (LTCC) and the Board of Trustees (Board) would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all the agencies who were responsible for keeping the South Lake Tahoe community safe during the Caldor Fire; and

WHEREAS, the Caldor Fire began on August 14, 2021, and is currently still active having burned 221,835 acres and is estimated to be 98% contained as of October 17, 2021; and WHEREAS, on August 30, 2021, the Caldor Fire entered the Lake Tahoe basin, resulting in rapidly escalating evacuation warnings and orders for the entire South Lake Tahoe community; and

WHEREAS, at its peak, an estimated 49,800 people were evacuated from their homes, 32,000 structures were threatened and 4,500 firefighters were committed to stopping the fire and protecting lives and property; and

WHEREAS, the Caldor Fire resulted in 81 structures damaged, 1,003 structures destroyed, including an estimated 782 homes, and 5 injuries including fire personnel and civilians; and

WHEREAS, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE), USDA Forest Service, South Lake Tahoe Fire Rescue, Lake Valley Fire Protection District, Tahoe Douglas Fire Protection District, Eastern Alpine Volunteer Fire Department, North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District, North Tahoe Fire Protection District, Meeks Bay Fire Protection District, Fallen Leaf Lake Fire Department, Kirkwood Volunteer Department, and the countless other agencies from California, Nevada, and across the country, worked collaboratively together to ensure the safety of the community and surrounding areas; and

WHEREAS, the efforts put forth to save the community involved more than just the firefighters and the front line crews, but included South Lake Tahoe Police Department, El Dorado County Sheriff's Office, California Highway Patrol, Nevada Highway Patrol, Douglas County Sheriff's Office, and other law enforcement partners who were responsible for safely evacuating and repopulating the city; and

WHEREAS, the City of South Lake Tahoe, El Dorado County, Tahoe Transportation District, Southwest Gas, Liberty Utilities, South Tahoe Public Utility District, the Department of Agriculture, as well as telephone companies, medical professionals, hospitality workers at Stateline, and various other public agencies were just a few of many who provided key support behind the scenes; and

WHEREAS, these agencies and community partners worked tirelessly day and night for weeks managing the fire and putting defensible systems in place to make certain of the town's safety; and

WHEREAS, LTCC's Lake Tahoe Basin Fire Academy was also present during the fire, as all 19 of LTCC's Fire Academy graduates from June 2021 were on the ground fighting the Caldor Fire along with numerous alumni, support staff, and faculty members from the program; and

WHEREAS, LTCC has made investments in expanding pathways in these fields, and in Fall of 2022, LTCC will launch the Forestry Program where students will learn about active forest management and foster a prepared workforce to help meet the needs of the state for future fires; and

WHEREAS, LTCC has also been gaining momentum and funding for the planned Tahoe Basin Public Safety Training Center which will increase the number of trained firefighters and first responders, offer hands-on training for emergency response, and serve as a central control center for the greater community; and

WHEREAS, although the evacuation orders have been lifted, the work is not done as the crews continue to make progress in removing hazardous trees from roadsides, evaluating burned watersheds for safety, and maintaining spot fire evaluations; and

WHEREAS, there are currently more than 2,000 fire and PG&E crews, including 1,236 firefighters still stationed in the community who are continuing to battle the remains of the Caldor fire and working on suppression and repair along highways 50, 89, and 88; therefore be it

RESOLVED that the Lake Tahoe Community College District Board of Trustees thanks the community individuals, educators, students, and families for coming together and supporting one another during such dire circumstances and evacuations; and be it further

RESOLVED that the Lake Tahoe Community College District Board of Trustees expresses its gratitude and appreciation for the commendable actions of the fire crews, first responders, and partnering agencies who stepped up during the crisis and who served the community during the Caldor Fire.

This resolution passed at a regular meeting of the Board of Trustees held at Lake Tahoe Community College District on this 26th day of October 2021, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTENTIONS:

ABSENT: