



## Paradise Recreation and Park District

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## Media Release

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **DISTRICT ACCEPTS SETTLEMENT FOR CAMP FIRE CLAIMS**

7/14/20. Paradise, Butte County, CA. The Paradise Recreation and Park District (PRPD, District) announced that it received payment to resolve the District's Camp Fire claims, resulting from the 2018 Camp Fire.

JAMS Mediator Judge Jay Gandhi (Ret.) determined the settlement value over several days of in-person mediation sessions held in San Francisco, California in 2019. Participants in the mediation included 14 public entities with various claims from the 2015 Butte Fire, the 2017 North Bay Fires, and the 2018 Camp Fire.

The Bankruptcy Court later incorporated and confirmed the payments as part of a plan of reorganization filed by PG&E in its Chapter 11 case. The settlement is part of \$1 billion paid to local government entities. The District received approximately \$38,558,560 as part of the settlement.

The local agency claims do not affect, the claims of residents, individuals, or businesses.

District Board Chairman Al McGreehan stated, "The settlement will allow the District to survive the loss of tax and program revenue over the next two decades while we rebuild a better, safer, and stronger community."

District Manager Dan Efseaff said, "The funds allow us to maintain our operations and services that we provide to the community and potentially expand recreational opportunities for local businesses and residents."

In the aftermath of the Camp Fire, the District has been aggressively pursuing grant and partnership opportunities to expand public access to land and nature. The District has secured nearly \$1 million in grant funding, sponsorships and donations to support programs and infrastructure, and the District is working towards the goal of creating networked trails and other recreation amenities to help foster economic growth for the community.

The District plans to carefully manage these funds to ensure adequate funding for operations that was lost from property tax revenues and lost program revenue. As rebuilding occurs, funds may be released for District projects and improvements with the District taking a close look at the return for the community, leveraging outside funds, and new revenue for the District.

Efseaff added, “These losses may reverberate in the region for years and yet the maintenance of existing facilities, and the development of new parks and programs will attract new residents and benefit the physical, social and emotional health of returning residents.”

“We live in an area with extraordinary natural beauty and improved safety and access to public lands will leverage these resources to improve the quality of life, health and happiness of people inside and out of our District.”

Local attorney Jeff Carter, and outside counsel Scott Summy and John Fiske of Baron & Budd, and Ernie Washington and Peter Washington of Washington & Washington represented the District.

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Since 1948, the Paradise Recreation and Park District provides recreation facilities and programs to the residents of Paradise, the Butte Creek Canyon area, and the unincorporated communities of Magalia/Paradise Pines and Concow/Yankee Hill. The District serves 50,000 people living in a 170-square mile area and manages nearly 500 acres of park land and facilities.

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