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|  | **Trinity County Office of Emergency Services**  Letty Garza, Director  Edward Prestley, Emergency Operations Manager  61 AIRPORT ROAD, SUITE B  P.O. BOX 399, WEAVERVILLE, CALIFORNIA 96093  PHONE (530) 623-1116 FAX (530) 623-5094 |

**Press Release**

**OES – 7/17/18**

The Trinity County Office of Emergency Services is currently teaming up with the Trinity County Department of Transportation/Planning Department and a contracted grant writer to apply for a Hazard Mitigation Grant for victims of the 2017 Helena fire which burned homes determined to be in the floodplain and therefore not eligible to be permitted for reconstruction. The process will consist of two phases. Phase 1: Property Acquisition. In phase 1, property owners, deemed eligible, will be contacted and questioned about their desire to partake in the acquisition process whereby their land would be purchased outright. Phase 2: Elevation of Structures. In phase 2, property owners deemed eligible will be contacted to determine if they would like to participate in the process to raise the elevation of the house to an acceptable level to be within code; therefore, allowing reconstruction to occur. Grant funds would pay 75% of the cost to raise the house foundation level to be within code, and the owner is responsible for the remaining 25% of the costs. The grant does not pay for the house to be rebuilt, that portion is still 100% the responsibility of the owner. Additionally, Phase 2 will include site specific plans and a cost-benefit analysis. If conditions are met and approved, the construction portion of Phase 2 can start.

If any ground is broken while the project plan is being written, submitted or reviewed, the property will be considered ineligible to receive grant funds. FEMA inspectors will monitor conditions at the beginning, middle and end of the construction portion of Phase 2 to ensure work is proceeding on schedule. At the end of Phase 2, project completion, verification and inspection will occur to ensure everything was completed according to the approved project plan.

This is a lengthy process and we appreciate your patience as we move forward with the application package. Our intention is to submit the application package to FEMA for approval prior to the September 4,2018 deadline, and we appreciate residents and affected property owners understanding of the complex nature of producing individual, highly detailed plans for each parcel for consideration by grant administrators. There is no guarantee the project will be funded, but we are currently working diligently to finish the application package.

If you would like to be considered for a portion of the grant funds, if awarded, please contact me at the number or email listed below no later than July 31, 2018. Participants must be available to sign an agreement stipulating they would like to take part in the program and may be asked to commit funds to complete an Elevation of Structure project.

Ed Prestley

OES Manager

Trinity County

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