

COUNTY OF EL DORADO
Board of Supervisors

330 Fair Lane
Placerville, CA 95667
(530) 621-5652
(530) 622-3645 Fax



GEORGE TURNBOO
SUPERVISOR, DISTRICT II

January 8, 2026

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States of America

RE: FEMA Individual Assistance for 2021 Caldor Fire Survivors

Dear President Trump,

I am writing for your assistance with a very important matter. FEMA has once again refused Individual Assistance to survivors of the horrific Caldor Fire which occurred in 2021 and decimated more than 700 homes in Grizzly Flats, El Dorado County, California. The President can direct FEMA to issue Individual Assistance to Caldor Fire survivors, even after FEMA representatives have denied it. Caldor Fire survivors still need Individual Assistance to help recover from a federally-managed disaster that ignited on federal lands.

A fire the size and scope of the 2021 Caldor Fire was anticipated by the US Forest Service (USFS) to destroy Grizzly Flats, CA, years prior to the Caldor Fire, according to a study it commissioned on a preventative strategy, called the Trestle Project. USFS knew that environmental groups' blocking the Trestle Project put the residents of Grizzly Flats, CA, in great danger, the very danger they faced in 2021 with the Caldor Fire. The disaster was the result of poor forest management and not climate change like Governor Newsom has claimed. Unfortunately, the danger was not properly conveyed to residents. Worse, when the unthinkable did happen in the form of the Caldor Fire, there were delays in the USFS response as the wildfire ignited on USFS land. When residents filed claims with USFS for the damages to their homes, the claims were coldly denied. The federal government played a primary role in the Caldor Fire and strict USFS policies only allowed the wildfire to grow to catastrophic size.

2020 Census data taken of Grizzly Flats, CA, used as one of the determining factors for the provision of FEMA Individual Assistance, was grossly incorrect.. In a personal visit to the burn scar in 2021, President Biden verbally assured and promised Caldor Fire survivors Individual Assistance, noting the disaster was a federal concern and affected residents would be assisted by the federal government. The historic view of the federal government has been one of reliability, honor and integrity. Many impacted residents are Veterans who served their country and honor the flag Old Glory. However, the President who promised Individual Assistance ignored Grizzly Flats, CA, and obfuscated his ability to direct FEMA to issue FEMA Individual Assistance to Caldor Fire survivors. You, President Trump, can change

that.

Residents in Grizzly Flats, CA, have been suffering for five long years, through heat waves, snow storms and mudslides, with the renege promise of Individual Assistance looming in their hearts. The lengthy and expensive task of rebuilding has ranged from slow to impossible for most residents, largely due to lack of funding for the increased costs to rebuild. FEMA Individual Assistance issued to Caldor Fire survivors would go a long way to help them rebuild their lives and relieve their suffering.

I believe that you, President Trump, will understand and make it right by keeping the federal government's promise to assist Caldor Fire victims. With only the stroke of a pen, you have the authority to direct FEMA to issue Individual Assistance to these still-suffering residents, as you did for survivors of California's Camp Fire, where assistance was initially denied but later approved. We believe keeping the federal promise of assistance to the Caldor Fire victims will set a new federal standard for disaster response and is an action only an historic President would take. Please don't ignore the Caldor Fire survivors the same way that Joe Biden ignored them.

As the El Dorado County District 2 Supervisor who represents Grizzly Flats, I humbly and hopefully ask that you authorize FEMA Individual Assistance to 2021 Caldor Fire survivors who have lost absolutely everything. You have reversed horrible FEMA decisions before and it is my sincere hope that you do the same for the Caldor Fire survivors. I appreciate your consideration and look forward to your supportive response concerning this matter.

Sincerely,

George Turnboo
District 2 Supervisor
County of El Dorado