SWEETWATER SPRINGS WATER DISTRICT

TO: Board of Directors **AGENDA NO. V-A**

FROM: Ed Fortner, General Manager

Meeting Date: September 3, 2020

SUBJECT: Emergency Response Plan; Wildfire Response

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Receive report related to the Emergency Response Plan and the Walbridge Wildfire.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

DISCUSSION:

Several weeks ago, I began working with staff to update the Wildfire section of the Emergency Response Plan going into Wildfire season. Most of the updates have been completed. Unfortunately, the Walbridge and Meyers wildfires started August 18th and Mandatory Evacuations were issued Wednesday evening for most of our service area. Office staff was evacuated and communications established with Julie. Jack and I coordinated the District response. All field staff was instructed to get their families safely evacuated, then report for emergency duty. Jack has done a great job rotating his group as two on-call units to maintain the system, keep tanks full, coordinate with local Sheriff and Fire personnel, and respond to line breaks and communications failures. I have taken the responsibility of coordinating as liaison to County Emergency Operation Center (EOC), updating staff and the Board, and virtually attending all County Supervisor, Sheriff, Cal Fire, and EOC meetings. I have kept the EOC informed of our District status, Mt. Jackson threats and concerns, and evacuation orders. Fortunately, the weather has benefitted the firefight and most folks have been allowed re-entry. My home and Rio Nido are the most threated at this time. Hopefully, full re-entry and fire control will be achieved before our Board meeting on September 3rd. I will bring the updated Emergency Response Plan for board review and approval at the October Board meeting. The fact that we had been reviewing the document was of great help during the event.