# SWEETWATER SPRINGS WATER DISTRICT

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

**FROM:** Ed Fortner, General Manager

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**Meeting Date: October 1, 2020**

**SUBJECT: Walbridge Fire and Mt. Jackson Site Visit Update**

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**RECOMMENDED ACTION:** Receive report related to the Walbridge Fire and Mt. Jackson Site Visit.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** N/A

**DISCUSSION:**

The Walbridge and Meyers wildfires started August 18th, and Mandatory Evacuations were issued on August 19th for most of our service area. The fire was 95% contained by the end of August. I continue to take responsibility for 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. A flareup of the southern and eastern lines of the Walbridge fire occurred over Labor Day weekend, and new evacuation orders were issued. Those flareups were resolved, and other than an apocalyptic orange sky during the flareups, the fire has settled down into "mop-up" status. Water usage during the fire for the Monte Rio cycle was not slightly higher than last year's usage with little change in unaccounted for water. Monte Rio and Villa Grande had a shorter evacuation period, and some customers used more water to wet their yards and homes due to the fire potential. We will track the Guerneville cycle in the next billing to gauge usage during the fire.

On Thursday, September 24th, the Board, Jack Bushgen, and I toured Mt. Jackson to assess damage and mitigation needs. The trip was enlightening as we all saw firsthand the extreme fire damage that was right up to the fenced enclosures where all the County, radio communications, and cellular towers are contained. There was good discussion about vegetation control and I have reported these findings to the Watershed Recovery Task Force I am participating in.