# SWEETWATER SPRINGS WATER DISTRICT

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

**FROM:** Ed Fortner, General Manager

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**Meeting Date: October 1, 2020**

**SUBJECT: Watershed Recovery Task Force Update**

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**RECOMMENDED ACTION:** Receive report related to the Watershed Recovery Task Force.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** N/A

**DISCUSSION:**

The Walbridge and Meyers wildfires started August 18th and Mandatory Evacuations were issued August 19th for most of our service area. The fire was 95% contained by the end of August. I continue to take 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. As part of the EOC coordination, I was added to the Watershed Recovery Task Force that includes, Permit Sonoma, Sonoma County Water, State Water Resources Control Board, California Geological Survey, and many other partners. The meetings were held daily starting on August 25th. Since September, the meetings are held three days a week. The group has been divided into three primary groups, Hazard Mitigation, Water Quality, and GIS. I have been most active in the Water Quality group. Early on, I brought the Mercury mine and Mt. Jackson up as the District's primary concerns, along with Sweetwater Springs Rd. Tank and infrastructure impacts. The mine was cleared by the Water Board personnel, our staff has inspected and cleared the Sweetwater Springs Tank and on Thursday, September 24th, the Board, Jack Bushgen and I toured Mt. Jackson to assess damage and mitigation needs. The Mt. Jackson site certainly needs attention for erosion control and vegetation removal. This issue has been stressed to the Task Force. We will need to take a deeper look at the Sweetwatersprings Rd. Tank area for potential vegetation issues. Water quality sampling plans and maps are being developed. I will share all final reports with the Board when I receive them. This has been a positive experience relative to building relationships with area officials.