

## **Calaveras receives \$4 million wildfire prevention funding**

By Nick Baptista / The Valley Springs News/ June 8, 2022

CalFire last week announced how it will distribute nearly \$118 million in funding for 144 local wildfire prevention projects across the state and Calaveras County will get nearly \$4 million for 10 such projects.

“Drought conditions have once again taken hold of California and are already contributing to another year of early fire activity,” said Joe Tyler, CalFire’s director and fire chief. “This funding is a critical part of our overall wildfire strategy.”

CalFire’s Wildfire Prevention Grants enable local organizations such as fire safe councils, to implement activities that address the hazards of wildfire and reduce wildfire risk in communities. Funded activities include hazardous fuel reduction, wildfire prevention planning, and wildfire prevention education. These projects all meet the goals and objectives of California’s Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan, as well as the Strategic Fire Plan for California.

More than half of the money coming to Calaveras County will fund two projects.

The Utica Water and Power Authority will receive \$1.2 million for the Hunter Reservoir Fuels Reduction Project and the Calaveras County Resource Conservation District has obtained \$1 million for the Mokelumne Hills Fuels Reduction Project.

In the west portion of the county, \$213,180 was granted for continuation of the Rancho Calaveras Fuels Reduction Program that is clearing a 100-foot wide defensible space around the subdivision.

“These 144 local wildfire prevention projects, along with the 105 projects we just funded in September 2021, will significantly increase California communities’ preparedness towards wildfires,” said Chief Daniel Berlant, CalFire deputy director of Community Wildfire Preparedness and Mitigation.

The Wildfire Prevention Grants Program is funded as part of the State’s Wildfire and Forest Resilience Strategy, in part with Cap-and-Trade auction proceeds administered by the California Climate Investments Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund.