Rural Emergency Access
Camp Fire Review

Mayor Jody Jones
Town of Paradise
September 17, 2019
Paradise, CA - Before the Fire

Population: 26,396
0.41% Annual Growth

Median Age: 50.1

Median Household Income: $47,533
5.81% Annual Growth
Years of Planning and Preparation

• 2008 Humboldt and Butte Lightning Complex Fires.

• Evacuation experience was difficult.

• Lessons learned from the 2008.
Evacuation Zones
One-Way Evacuation
Emergency Operations Plan and EOC Drills
November 8, 2018

90% of Paradise Destroyed

86 Lives Lost

12,000 homes destroyed

26,000 People Displaced

Timeline

6:30 am - Fire Ignited in Pulga – about 8 miles away from Paradise.

8:00am – Fire reaches Paradise Town limits.

10:30 am – Fire reported throughout Paradise.

2:30 pm – Most of Paradise has been destroyed
Blocked Evacuation Routes

• The ✗ mark areas blocked by fire or other hazards

• These were blocked at different times between 8 am and as late as 10 pm on November 8th.
Traffic in Chico which was not under traffic control caused a backup in Paradise, even with contra flow in place.
Edgewood Ln – Long, dead end street with only one exit route.

Edgewood Ln was overcome by fire at 11:30 am.
Standing Structures
Destroyed Structures
Long Term Recovery Plan

- 40 Recovery Projects Identified
- Important Transportation Projects include:
  - Evacuation Routes
  - Missing Road Segments
  - Long Dead-End Streets
**EVA C U AT I O N ROUTES**

**Recovery Priority**

Tier 1
Evacuation routes in Paradise are the main roads into and out of town. They were tested in the Camp Fire. Residents ranked improvements as a Tier 1 priority.

**Project Description**
All roads in Paradise serve as either primary or secondary ingress/egress routes. The town should commission a traffic study that would provide the empirical data needed to seek funding for improvements along main evacuation routes. Implementation projects along these routes could include:

- Addressing choke points
- Making improvements to roadway widths
- Eliminating ditches
- Adding direction and message signs

In addition, utility poles should be eliminated along all roads (both public and private) as they can burn and block egress. A setback to trees should also be established for the same reason.

**Lead**
- Town of Paradise

**Action Steps**

- Secure funding for traffic study
- Request for proposals
- Complete traffic study
- Implement recommendations

**Cost Estimate**
Traffic Study $150,000–300,000
Implementation To be determined based on recommendations from the study

**Potential Resources**
- California Department of Transportation (CalTrans)
- Federal Highway Administration (FHA)
- Public Assistance (PA)
- U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)

**Return on Investment**
Increased life safety.

**Timeline**
Funding and Study 1 to 1.5 years
Implementation 1.5 to 5 years
MISSING ROAD SEGMENTS

Recovery Priority

Tier 1
Completing the primary road network is a Tier 1 priority as it is central to improving evacuation alternatives.

Project Description
Missing road segments in the public street network, such as Elliot Road between Sawmill and Pentz, should be added to improve circulation and evacuation options.

Lead
Town of Paradise

Action Steps
- Identify preferred alignments
- Acquire right-of-way
- Secure funding
- Implement

Cost Estimate
- Right-of-way acquisition: $0
- Design and construction: $750,000

Potential Resources
- California Department of Transportation (CalTrans)
- U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development (USDA RD)

Return on Investment
Safety associated with improved road connections.

Timeline
- Identify Preferred Alignments: 0 to 1 year
- Funding and Implementation: 3 to 5 years
LONG DEAD-END STREETS

Recovery Priority

Tier 1
Establishing a policy related to long dead-end streets goes hand in hand with fire and life safety. Short-term implementation is important as residents make plans to rebuild. This is a Tier 1 priority.

Project Description
Requiring two means of ingress and egress for long dead-end streets would increase safety by doubling the evacuation options. The town should establish standards for a safe length/number of houses where an additional means of access is required.

Lead
• Town of Paradise

Partners
• Paradise Police Department
• Cal FIRE
• Paradise Fire Department

Action Steps
• Identify already existing long-dead end streets that need to be fixed
• Research and scoping with law enforcement and fire personnel
• Recommend a policy
• Council Action

Cost Estimate
Not applicable

Potential Resources
Not applicable

Return on Investment
Improved life safety.

Timeline
Identify Already Existing Long-Dead End Streets 0 to 1 year
Setting a Policy 0 to 2 years
Questions?