

Message From Your Mayor:

Dear Placerville,

It has been so great to see everyone's faces out and about enjoying our local businesses, our parks and trails, and this lovely (albeit dry) spring weather. We are experiencing a very dry spring which means this year's fire season will be starting early. I want to take this opportunity to highlight the good work that is being done in the community to reduce our risk.

Property owners are busy clearing brush and debris and hardening their homes. We appreciate everyone that has stepped up to maintain their own properties and help protect their neighborhoods from the risk of wildfire. If you haven't started yet, I want to encourage you to take advantage of this cool weather and relatively high humidity to get ahead of weed eating and chain sawing. If you know someone who is elderly or disabled and cannot afford to hire the help needed to clear their property, the Placerville Fire Safe Council can connect them to free services.

The City will be stepping up its vegetation management efforts this spring and clearing 54 acres of City owned-property. I am excited to announce that much of this work will be done with goats - an efficient, cost-effective, environmentally friendly and quiet method that, unlike machines that can create sparks in hot dry weather, can be put to work all year long. I am looking forward to seeing a herd of goats in town chomping away at our overgrown vegetation. We are also stepping up our code enforcement on large parcels that have become overgrown and pose a risk to the community. Code enforcement is complaint driven so if you see something of concern, please report it. The City has also partnered with PG&E and their selected vegetation management company, Mountain F. Enterprises, by issuing an annual permit that significantly expedites the clearing of power transmission and distribution lines throughout Placerville.

I know that our residents are very concerned about the homeless encampments, both from a fire/public safety standpoint and from a quality of life and moral standpoint. These concerns are valid and it is time that homeless residents and the neighborhoods impacted by these encampments have proper sanitation, safety and services. The City and the County are working collaboratively and urging [EDOK CoC](#) to set-up an emergency shelter before the height of this year's fire season.

I had an opportunity to join my Council colleagues, City Staff and community members at the Wildfire Awareness Presentation hosted by the Placerville Fire Safe Council and held at Town Hall this past weekend. The PFSC is a volunteer led organization that has been doing tremendous work in our community to get the word out about emergency preparedness and home hardening, organizing fire safe neighborhoods and working to get seniors and disabled low-income residents connected with free vegetation management services. I want to thank the PFSC for bringing together the community partners that are working to make Placerville safer when it comes to wildfire: El Dorado Fire, Placerville Police Department, CalFire, Tribal Fire, The Amatuer Radio Club, EID, The Forest Service, El Dorado Native Plant Society.

Emergency planning is underway. The Placerville Police Department has been working on Emergency Route Awareness for the City of Placerville and developing the City of Placerville "Ready, Set, Go" Evacuation Plan. The El Dorado Transportation Commission and DKS Associates are working on The Greater Placerville Wildfire Evacuation, Preparedness, Community Safety and Resiliency Plan and the RCD has been awarded funding to develop a regional strategic plan to address vegetation management on public and private lands.

Making Placerville fire-safe is a community effort and I am inspired and encouraged everyday by the residents, volunteers and community organizations that are pitching in and stepping up to get this important work done.

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Kara Taylor

Mayor

City of Placerville

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