



January 24, 2016

Dear Calaveras County Water District—Mr. Jeff Meyer

We cannot thank you enough for giving a substantial donation to this program to purchase straw. Thank you for caring about the Calaveras County community and the water sheds.

The Butte Fire has destroyed part of our County and we are on the ground mitigating erosion and repairing damaged wells for living and irrigation. Volunteer work teams directed by Sean Kriletich (geologist/farmer) are helping with spreading/pegging the rice straw, felling trees to create micro terraces and helping repair wells and irrigation systems. Two locations of rice straw are constantly being replenished for landowners to take so they can work on their land.

Without the help of the volunteers and without the rice straw being made readily available, the soil and the ash currently sitting on top of it are primed to pollute our waterways and the reservoirs that millions of downstream users and agriculturalists rely on. Without this help, homes that didn't burn could slide. It is of the utmost importance to keep this soil where it is so that our forest can grow back and we can enjoy clean water, healthy soil and clean air. Soil, water and air are the foundations of our agriculture and tourism based economy and the mental and physical health of our community members.

This small group cannot help everyone but your donation also lets victims help themselves. We are giving this community hope to go on in the wake of the Butte Fire. We are giving volunteers the immense satisfaction that comes with serving people and building community. Color is being put back in this landscape.

We have to keep working on the Butte Fire Burn to keep our soil in place, our water clean and give our forest the ability to regenerate. Thank you for making this possible.

On behalf of the Board of Directors

*Deane Kriletich*

**CalaverasGROWN-Community and Forest Recovery Program**

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