

Summary of Consultant Activities - December 2018
Sustainable Community Advocates
Steve Teshara, Principal

- Attend Lake Tahoe Regional Fire Chiefs Association dinner December 6th.
- Continue to track Congressional efforts to finalize and adopt a federal budget for FY 2019.
- Continue to organize and conduct additional conversations and meetings with fellow co-chairs of the Lake Tahoe Partnership regarding the development of strategies to secure a minimum of **\$15 million in FY 2019 federal funds in support of the Lake Tahoe Restoration Act** and efforts to secure final approval by the US Interior Secretary so funding is released for the projects in **Round 17 of the Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act**.
- Discuss regional dispatch services for fire and emergency response in the Lake Tahoe-Truckee region with Chief Schwartz (Related to Finding 42 of The Emergency California-Nevada Fire Commission Report of 2008).
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- Review December 28 communication from the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board regarding "Request for Comments and Notice of Public Hearing, Tentative Board Order R6T-2019-TENT, Renewal of Board Order R6T-2014-0030, Conditional Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements for Waste Discharges Resulting from Timber Harvest and Vegetation Management Activities in the Lahontan Region." (Email to Chiefs)
- Initial preparation/advocacy registration for 2019 Session of the Nevada Legislature (Legislative Session opens Monday, February 4th)

Note: At the TRPA Governing Board meeting December 19, Bill Yeates was elected Board Chair for 2019-2020. Mr. Yeates is the appointee of the California State Senate Rules Committee. Mark Bruce was elected Vice Chair for the same two-year period. Mr. Bruce is the Nevada Governor's appointee.

Chief Steve Simons
P. O. Box 189
Tahoma, CA 96142

December 29, 2018

Dear Chief Simons,

My grandson's other grandmother, Tricia Chisum, phoned you in October about an incident that occurred at Meeks Bay on September 2, 2018 . She was very proud and thought you could perhaps recognize him in some way. You suggested that she send you the details and you could send him a letter of recognition of some sort.

Following are the details:

While camping that weekend with friends, my grandson, Sawyer Hacker, who is 11 years old, along with his brothers Keaton and Maddox, were playing at the water's edge, and Sawyer asked to borrow one of the group's paddle boards, to try it out. He went out on it for the first time and was able to stand up after a few minutes. I watched as he paddled out towards the buoys, which are about 50 yards out. About 20 minutes later, he ran towards me on the beach, exhausted, and collapsed on the sand saying he was so tired as he had let someone hang onto his board. A few minutes later, a man and his wife approached him and told him that he had been totally out of energy when he spotted Sawyer on the board, and that Sawyer had seriously saved his life. He was very shaken. What had happened is that the man was trying to swim to the buoys thinking he would rest there and then swim back to shore.. He didn't realize that the buoys would not hold his weight and he struggled to stay above water. He spotted Sawyer and asked if he could hold onto his board back to shore. The water was getting choppy. Sawyer asked him if he was injured, so he would know if he needed to paddle fast. He realized that if he stood up, he might fall over with the extra weight on the board, and that he should have him hang onto the front of the board, so that he wouldn't hit him with the paddle. So Sawyer sat on his knees and paddled backwards to the shore. He told his Mom later, that he tried to remember what she had taught him, about assessing situations before reacting, especially in a dangerous situation. After he rested on the sand for a few minutes, Sawyer went around asking for energy bars as the man had said he was out of energy. A lot of people were then talking about Sawyer and he didn't really know what to make of it. He asked why people were talking about him, and his 7 year old brother nonchalantly said," Well, basically, you are a hero".

Thank you, *Linda Lee*

Linda Lee 530-878-9217



Meeks Bay Fire Protection District

P.O. Box 189 ❖ Tahoma, CA 96142
530-525-7548 ❖ Fax: 525-4502



North Tahoe Fire Protection District

P.O. Box 5879 ❖ Tahoe City, CA 96145
530-583-6913 ❖ Fax: 583-6909

January 11, 2019

Mr. Sawyer Hacker
c/o 14026 Hidden Pines Place
Auburn, CA 95602

Dear Sawyer:

It was recently brought to my attention that you were instrumental in helping out a person in distress off the shore of Lake Tahoe last summer. I was told of your heroic efforts using your paddle board to assist a distressed swimmer who could have drowned without your clear thinking and quick actions. It's not always easy learning a new skill and I am impressed that you were able to stand up on the paddle board your first time on.

One of the many things we teach our emergency personnel is situational awareness. It sounds like you learned this lesson from your mom at a young age. I'm sure your mom is very proud.

Under situations like the one you were in, it's not always easy to stay calm and understand the appropriate actions that are needed. It was important that you not only kept the swimmer safe, but that you also ensured your own safety by staying calm, thinking clearly, evaluating options, and taking appropriate actions. Also, good job staying low on the board so you didn't end up in the water too. It is not always easy to get back on once you fall off.

It is very commendable that you went above and beyond after safely returning him to the beach. I'm sure the man did not expect you to find him energy bars, but I'm sure he really appreciated it.

Please accept the enclosed Certificate of Valor from Meeks Bay Fire, as a token of our appreciation. Because you did what you did, no one needed to call 9-1-1.

Respectfully,


Stephen Simons
Fire Chief

enc.

Meeks Bay Fire Protection District

presents this

Certificate of Valor

to

Sawyer Hacker

FOR STRENGTH OF MIND AND SPIRIT
WHEN ENCOUNTERED WITH AN EMERGENCY



Stephen Simons, Fire Chief

2018



Auto Presorted
First-Class Mail
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit 4957
Phoenix, AZ

27952776

Thanks for your help, Clyde
and Dustin! You were great!

This postcard was sent on Jan 16th, 2019
using TouchNote.

Meeks Bay Firehouse
PO Box 189
8041 Emerald Bay Road
Tahoma, CA 96142-0137

**TOUCH
NOTE**
keep in.

