



## Whiskeytown Environmental School Community

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### **Whiskeytown Environmental School Community Receives \$1,000,000 from PG&E in Zogg Fire Settlement**

**Redding, California:** Whiskeytown Environmental School, founded in 1970, is a residential outdoor science school serving the greater Shasta County community. The school, which operates in partnership with the Shasta County Office of Education and the National Park Service, has served over 134,000 students since its inception and is beloved by generations of residents. Many students who attend WES are enrolled in under-served schools, making the WES residential experience a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for many children.

The 2018 Carr Fire surrounded WES, destroying some student cabins and leaving the rest unusable. Since 2018 no children have experienced the residential environmental education program offered by WES. The “Grow Back Stronger” Campaign was launched in 2021 with a goal of raising \$4.3M to rebuild and replace student housing at WES.

Another lethal fire, the Zogg Fire occurred in Shasta and Tehama counties in 2020. This fire tragically took the lives of four people (Karin King, 79; Kenneth Vossen, 52; Alaina Rowe McLeod, 46; Feyla McLeod, 8), burned over 200 buildings, consumed 56,300 acres, and devastated the communities of Igo and Ono located southwest of Redding. It was determined that a pine tree which fell into PG&E power lines caused the fire.

As part of a deal with prosecutors to drop criminal charges, Shasta County filed civil charges against PG&E. The \$50 million settlement includes payments to a number of community and nonprofit organizations, including a \$1 million commitment to rebuilding student housing at Whiskeytown Environmental School (WES).

“Redding is a small community,” says WES Community President Melinda Kashuba. “People know each other here, and these losses were felt throughout our region. Nothing can undo the heartache caused by the Zogg Fire. But we are thankful that something positive is emerging from the tragedy. Generations of students will benefit from this investment in outdoor education in Shasta County.”

**About Whiskeytown Environmental School (WES) Community:** *WES Community is a non-profit 501c3 organization dedicated to ensuring that each new generation, regardless of economic status or ability, can join the legacy of learning at WES by growing to love wild places of every scale and being committed to long-term environmental stewardship.*

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