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**California State Library Provides Aid to Libraries in Communities Hit Hard by 2017 Wildfires**

**Sacramento, Calif.** Nearly \$200,000 in one-time funding is being awarded by the California State Library to public libraries in 15 counties hit hardest by wildfires in 2017. The allotments, ranging from \$5,000 to \$30,000, can be used by the libraries to add materials and other resources that help Californians and their communities recover.

Allotments of \$30,000 are being given to Santa Barbara, Sonoma, and Ventura counties. Mariposa and Siskiyou are being awarded \$15,000. Mendocino and Napa Counties will each receive \$12,000. Trinity County will receive \$11,000. Butte, Kings, Modoc, Nevada, San Luis Obispo, and Tulare counties are each receiving \$10,000 in funds. Lassen County will receive \$5,000. The funding amounts are determined by acres burned and number of structures destroyed.

“It was clear during these fires the essential role libraries play in disaster response, sometimes being the only places in a region with WiFi connectivity,” said Greg Lucas, California’s state librarian.

“But libraries are also community anchors during disaster recovery. Hopefully, these funds, in a small way, can help libraries respond even better to the unique challenges created by the wildfires that have ravaged so many California communities this year.”

The funding comes from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, which supports libraries throughout the country through the federal Library Services and Technology Act. The Library Services and Technology Act and the important programs it supports are administered in California by the State Librarian.

**About the State Library:** Founded in 1850, the California State Library has an extensive collection of documents from and about the state's rich history, ranging from books, maps, miners' diaries, newspapers, and periodicals to photographs, paintings and posters. The State Library also holds federal and state publications, and is home to the Bernard E. Witkin State Law Library, and the Braille and Talking Book Library. [www.library.ca.gov](http://www.library.ca.gov)

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