Santa Rosa
Response and Recovery from 2017 Fires

Joe Schiavone
Deputy Director – Water & Sewer Operations
Santa Rosa Water
Santa Rosa Water

- Provide water and sewer service to 175k customers in Santa Rosa
- Provide regional wastewater treatment for 213,000+ customers
- Maintain over 1,200 miles of water and sewer pipe
- Storm water and flood control
- Annual budget—$175 million
- Staff of 250
The Fires
Tubbs Fire

• Fire estimated to have spread 12 miles in the first three hours
• Increased in intensity when the fire started consuming the structures in the Fountaingrove neighborhood
Fire Statistics

The most destructive fire in California history in 2017

- 42 Fatalities
- 36,000 Acres burned
- 5612 Structures lost
- $14.5 Billion in losses
- 10,000 firefighters
Countless heroes and heroic efforts by City staff
The Iconic Round Barn
In preparing for battle, I have always found that plans are useless but planning is indispensable.

(Dwight D. Eisenhower)
Fire Response – Key Lessons Learned

• Communication
• Plan/process for adaptively managing your response plan
• Fatigue
• Basis of internal assignments
• Mutual Aid
• FEMA processes
Damaged Infrastructure
FEMA Assistance
The Recovery

- Debris cleanup
- Update fiscal plan with loss of revenue stream
- Rebuild coordination with customers
- Rebuild damaged infrastructure
Rebuilding with FEMA Assistance