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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Lafayette Public Works Return from Flood Recovery Operation

LAFAYETTE, CO September 30, 2013 – Mutual aid is a practice familiar to both the Lafayette Fire and Police Departments. It comes into play when an emergency situation such as a fire or accident calls for additional assistance on site, or when a certain jurisdiction is closer to the event. In these instances, cities agree to lend assistance to one another. Mutual aid is not as common across Public Works departments, but in light of the recent floods the need existed and Lafayette stepped up to the task. This week marked the return home of a contingent of Lafayette Public Works crew members who had been offering their professional assistance to the Town of Estes Park over the last two weeks.

As flood waters rose from Coal Creek on the evening of September 12, residents in the Centaur South subdivision received a reverse 911 call to evacuate. In response to the evacuation notice, the Bob L. Burger Recreation Center was established as an emergency shelter. While a number of homes incurred considerable damage, the waters quickly receded, residents returned to their homes on Friday morning, and Lafayette avoided the widespread destruction experienced in other areas of Boulder County. Because Lafayette's damage extent was minimal, City Administrator Gary Klaphake reached out to his counterpart in Estes Park to see if they could use some assistance.

Lafayette Public Works – Aid to Estes Park

On September 17 four Public Works staff headed to Estes Park, five pieces of big equipment in tow, to offer flood relief assistance. The typical 60 minute trip took the team 3-1/2 hours. Their first assignment was to begin hauling rock and dirt to rebuild scores of impassable, washed out roads. One of the larger projects involved installing a culvert under the vital Fish Creek Rd/Scott Ave and rebuilding the road. The outcome of this newly repaired road allowed 2,500 residents, many of who had been airlifted out, to return to their homes. These activities continued throughout the week with the Lafayette Public Works crew running 12 hour days.

The week of September 23 the original four, plus an additional two Public Works staff made the trek back up to Estes Park assisting with more roadwork, dam repairs, and debris removal. "It was definitely an intense situation,"

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describes Gil Torrez, Lafayette Public Works Supervisor. "There was a situation where we were pulling a huge tree out of the river and our equipment was tipped up on two wheels. The long days were worth it when we saw the relief on the faces of the Estes Park residents, and shared a bbg dinner they cooked for us."

Lafayette Public Works - Aid to Left Hand Water District

Engineers from Lafayette's Public Works Department assisted the Left Hand Water District by building an interconnection system to provide water service their customers without water. In two locations, Lafayette fire hydrants were connected via fire hose to their hydrants to supply water to the affected service area.

Lafayette Police Dept – Aid to Lyons

The Lafayette Police Department sent officers to assist the county in Lyons. Eight offers were sent on September 18, then 4 each day through September 21. The Lafayette officers worked road blocks, patrolled to protect against looters, monitored unauthorized individuals, and ran security at one of the disaster shelter/relief centers. Each officer worked 12 hour shifts.

Lafayette City Council

Because of Lafayette's good fortune in averting widespread devastation, the Mayor and City Council were inspired to offer help to those more severely impacted by donating \$10,000 to Elevations Credit Union's flood relief fund. The Elevations Foundation will match this donation dollar for dollar doubling the City's contribution. Elevations is working directly with local agencies to ensure all money collected will go to temporary housing for individuals and families displaced by this disaster.