



SUPPLEMENTARY INVESTIGATION REPORT

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION
LE 71 (REV. 7/2011)

INCIDENT NUMBER	
15CAAEU024918	
CASE NAME	
BUTTE	
UNIT	CASE NUMBER
AEU	

DAY	MONTH	DATE	YEAR	COUNTY	REGION	UNIT	CASE NUMBER
WED	SEP	9	2015	AMADOR	CNR	AEU	

1 **Witness Statement:**

2 Louie PODESTA Jr.

3 [REDACTED]

4 [REDACTED]

5 [REDACTED]

6 Jackson City Fire Department

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8 On September 9, 2015, at approximately 5:30 PM I, Gianni MUSCHETTO, interviewed PODESTA
9 Jr. at the Butte Incident regarding the fire. PODESTA Jr. told me the following in summary:

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11 PODESTA Jr. told me that afternoon he was off work and was cleaning up around the barn across
12 the street from [REDACTED] Butte Mountain Road. He was preparing it for an upcoming wedding. He told
13 me at some point he saw smoke over the hill in the trees in the area where he could see the
14 powerlines running through the trees. PODESTA Jr. looked at his cell phone log and told me he
15 called the Jackson City Fire Station at 2:21 PM to report the fire, then hung up and immediately
16 called the CAL FIRE Camino ECC to report the fire. He told me he reported that powerlines were
17 possibly down because the fire was in the area where the powerlines ran through and he didn't know
18 of anything else in the area that could have caused the fire. PODESTA Jr. told me his parents lease
19 the property and have their cows on it. He said the gate to access the property was next to the barn
20 where he was working and nobody went into the field. PODESTA Jr. told me prior to seeing the fire
21 he did not hear anything or see anything in the direction of the fire. PODESTA Jr. told me he also
22 called the responding CAL FIRE Battalion Chief and told him the fire was near Charamuga Ranch
23 Road. PODESTA Jr. told me he also called his mom who was home alone next door and told her
24 about the fire. He then got on a backhoe tractor at the barn and drove through the field to the fire.
25 PODESTA Jr. told me when he got to the fire it was already a couple of acres in size. He pointed to
26 a stand of pine and oak trees on the north side of the powerlines and told me the fire was creeping
27 through the trees. He told me the wind was pushing the main fire south and it had already spread to
28 the neighbors house. PODESTA Jr. showed me where he tried to cut a fireline with the tractor on

1 the north and east side of the fire on the edge of the stand of trees. PODESTA Jr. said he was
2 unable to stop the fire spread with the tractor and parked it out of the way once fire engines arrived.
3 PODESTA Jr. told me when he first got to the fire there was nobody around and he was not aware of
4 anyone being on the property or of any ongoing trespass issues. PODESTA Jr. gave me the contact
5 information for his parents, who lease the property, and the owners of the property. He told me the
6 owners live out of the area but they had been up for several days and were staying in their
7 motorhome at [REDACTED] Butte Mountain Road, across the street from the barn he was working on.
8 While interviewing PODESTA Jr. I observed the remains of a burned brush pile on the edge of the
9 fire north of the powerlines. I asked him if he or anyone else had been burning the pile and he told
10 me, "Absolutely not". PODESTA Jr. told me he did not have any other information as to what
11 caused the fire and I concluded the interview.

12 End of Statement.

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PRINTED NAME	SIGNATURE	BADGE NUMBER	DATE
Gianni Muschetto		15	9/21/15