



**COUNTY OF LAKE  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

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Chief Mike Wink  
CAL FIRE / Wildfire Prevention Grants  
1199 Big Tree Rd  
St. Helena, CA 94574

January 9, 2023

Subject: The Tree Mortality Mitigation and Public Safety in Lake County - 23-WP-LNU-59077270

Dear Chief Wink,

On behalf of the County of Lake we are writing to express our commitment to participate in the 2024 CAL FIRE Wildfire Prevention grant application entitled “LiDAR Derivatives to Address Lake County Tree Mortality” project submitted by the Lake County Resource Conservation District (LCRCD), which is the first phase of a multi-year project. The County of Lake is eager to partner and support this local special district in strategic risk reduction activities. This project is critical for our landscape resilience, community security, and advances our mission to improve safety for our residents. It is also aligned with our organizational priorities to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire within Lake County.

Lake County is a significantly underserved community and has a serious need to bolster our technological infrastructure to inform our risk reduction and mitigation efforts. Due to a catastrophic decline in forest health from years of drought, beetle infestation, over 66% percent of the County has suffered from extreme wildfires. Further, the majority of the County remains in the “high” or “very-high” fire risk severity rating and in an ongoing State of Emergency due to the pervasive Tree Mortality Crisis due to drought and bark beetle infestation.

The United States Geological Survey and California Natural Resources Agency ‘North Coast LiDAR Acquisition’ project has recently been completed and includes aerial survey data for the entirety of Lake County. The County of Lake and the LCRCD have partnered with Tukman Geospatial to create the LiDAR derivatives into a publicly available and accessible format. The County will use the derivatives of this data set to create a strategic approach to reducing wildfire risk and manage the County’s tree mortality crisis.

In the next phase of this project, a Hazardous Tree Coordinator will be onboarded to greatly add to the County’s efficacy to manage and track the removal of dead and dying trees, and fuel load reduction activities in accordance with our Community Wildfire Protection Plan and Hazardous Mitigation Plan.

The County of Lake has and will continue to support this project in a number of key ways:

- Has provided \$15,000 in-kind to acquire LiDAR across the entirety of Lake County in order to produce the derivatives,
- Provide in-kind staff time from the Chief Deputy County Administrative Officer and the Chief Climate Resiliency Officer

This LCRCO project will address these issues in collaboration with the County of Lake. The County of Lake has worked closely with the Lake County Resource Conservation District, and we are confident in their ability to carry out this project. We look forward to joining the network of local and tribal governments, State agencies, civic groups, and community-based organizations slated for inclusion in this project. We fully support their efforts and will do what we can to enhance the collaboration. We are enthusiastic about the lasting benefits this project will provide throughout our region.

Sincerely,

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Chair, Lake County Board of Supervisors