

Moke Simon – District 1

Bruno Sabatier – District 2

Eddie Crandell – District 3

Michael S. Green – District 4

Jessica Pyska – District 5

July 25, 2023

Nancy Ward, Director California Governor's Office of Emergency Services 3650 Schriever Avenue Mather, CA 95655

Subject: Approve Waiver of Local Match under the California Disaster Assistance Act

Dear Director Ward,

I am writing to you on behalf of the County of Lake to request State assistance to mitigate Pervasive Tree Mortality in Lake County. On May 2, 2022, the Lake County Board of Supervisors proclaimed the existence of a local emergency due to tree mortality pursuant to Section 6-5 of the Lake County Code.

As you will recall, we delayed submitting our official CDAA application while vetting potential sources of funding to meet the 25% match requirement. To date, these efforts have included preparing grant applications and speaking to our State and Federal and Legislative delegations, representatives from State Agencies (*including Peter Crase, since retired, and David Gillings, since retired, from CalOES and representatives from CAL FIRE regarding historical funding opportunities*), natural resources- and wildfire-focused staff from County advocacy organizations, and peers from other Counties facing Tree Mortality.

In recent years, the problem has exponentially worsened, and even the relatively wet winter and spring seasons we experienced cannot be expected to materially stem the growth of Tree Mortality in Lake County.

You will be aware, the United States Forest Service has conducted Aerial Surveys in 2019, 2021 and 2022 (no directly comparable survey was conducted in 2020).

In 2019, USFS estimated 1,000 Lake County acres were afflicted by Tree Mortality. The estimated number of dead trees was **3,000**.

Those estimates have exponentially grown in the time since:

- 2019 1,000 Acres, 3,000 dead trees
- 2021 21,000 Acres, 331,000 dead trees
- 2022 31,000 Acres, **590,000** dead trees

There are at least 22,000 dead trees along County responsibility roadways and evacuation routes in the southern portion of the County alone; remediating those is a matter of the utmost urgency.

Further delay can only be expected to deepen this growing crisis, and it is necessary to focus initial efforts on dead and dying trees posing the greatest risk to life and property.

Lake County has been struck by 18 disasters since 2015. You, personally, Director Ward, and CalOES have been a great support to Lake County in navigating complexities associated with multiple wildfires, extreme drought, severe storms, and low-elevation snow. Your collaboration is critical.

Our limited County resources (*staff, available discretionary funds and infrastructure capacity*) are severely depleted; offering even a portion of what is required to meet a CDAA match is effectively impossible for an emergency of this scale.

Nonetheless, taking remedial and mitigative action is urgent and necessary, and clearly in the broader State interest; recent events have certainly taught us that wildfires do not observe jurisdictional boundaries.

Please accept this letter and the accompanying application as Lake County's request for local government assistance under the authority of the California Disaster Assistance Act (CDAA), California Government Code Section 8680 et seq and California Code of Regulations, Title 19, Section 2900 et seq.

# Furthermore, Lake County requests a waiver of the match requirement.

Attached are a 1-pager, collecting just some of the effects of Tree Mortality in Lake County, to date, and the most recent USFS/USDA aerial survey report.

With CalOES' partnership, Lake can be a model for California Counties with severe resource limitations and without well-established timber industry pushing back against this terrible climate change-informed crisis.

We appreciate your timely attention to this matter and can be reached for any questions.

Sincerely,

Lake County Board of Supervisors

Jessica Pyska Jessica Pyska (Jul 26, 2023 16:56 PDT)

Jessica Pyska, Chair



CC: Ryan Buras, Deputy Director of Recovery
John Catching, Program Manager III, Public Assistance Office
Robert Larsen, Program Manager II, Public Assistance Office

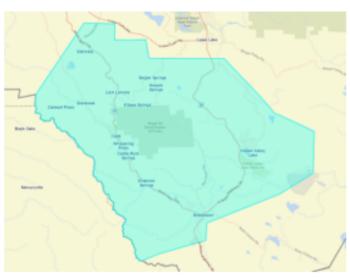


#### Urgent Needs:

- Waiver of CDAA Local Match Requirement for Immediate Dead and Dying Tree Remediation
- Technical Assistance to Support County Efforts to Remove and Dispose of 22,000 Conifers
- Support in Holding PG&E, State and Federal Agencies Accountable for Vegetation Removal

Background: Repeated wildfire events, drought and persistent historically high temperatures have had compounding effects in Lake County. Since 2015, two-thirds of our landmass has burned, and greater than 2,000 homes, more than 5.5% of Lake County's total housing supply.

Recent flyover data from CAL FIRE demonstrated thousands of conifers are dead and dying in Lake



South Lake County Focus Area

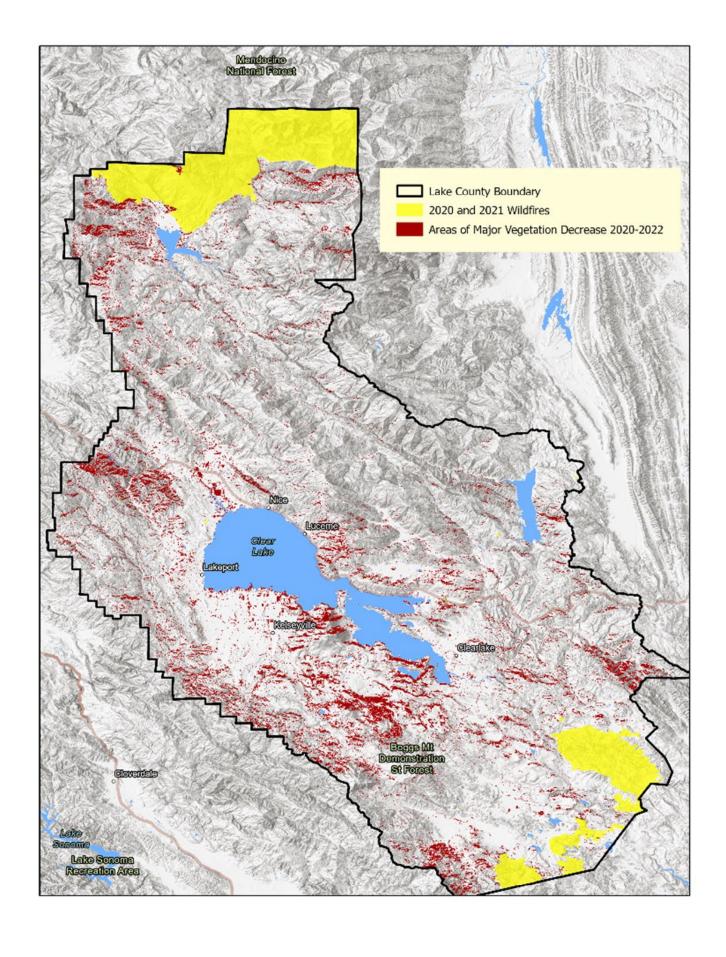
County's woodlands, and Tree Mortality is expected to grow increasingly prevalent in the nearterm. The map on the reverse was created by augmenting CAL FIRE's findings with satellite data and demonstrates profound vegetation loss throughout Lake County from 2020-2022. Many affected areas are outside footprints of recent wildfire events; the threat to public safety is severe.

Dr. Michael Jones, the University of California Cooperative Extension's Forest Advisor for Lake County and a trained entomologist, indicates removal of dead and dying trees is critical to mitigating multi-species bark beetle infestation. There are at least 10,000

such trees within 200-foot buffer zones around County roadways and evacuation routes in the abovedepicted area (*initial S. Lake County Focus Area*), alone and **22,000 along roadways countywide.** The magnitude and urgency of this problem continues to grow; **costs are expected to exceed \$4,000 per tree**.

On May 3, 2022, Lake County's Board of Supervisors Proclaimed the existence of a Local Emergency due to "Pervasive Tree Mortality." This is a regional crisis; neighboring Napa and Mendocino Counties have likewise declared or initiated the process to declare States of Emergency. Related threats are complex. While it is too soon to fully evaluate the effects of January 2023's Atmospheric River Event, it reinforced the vulnerability of County roadways and other public rights of way to obstruction from downed trees.

The California Disaster Assistance Act provides for a 75%/25% cost share for Tree Mortality emergency response activities. CDAA funding is essential, but insufficient to address Lake County's Tree Mortality emergency. Lake is an impoverished rural County, with a median household income \$49,254, just 63% of the statewide median of \$78,672. 15.9% of the population lives at or below the federal poverty level (11.5% statewide). Managing \$7.5M or more in immediate costs, in addition to loss of revenue due to staffing impacts is not sustainable based on local contributions, alone.



### AERIAL DETECTION SURVEY: 2022 SUMMARY REPORT

Report Date

Flight Dates

Area Flown

Acres Surveyed

than mortality

Acres with Mortality

Acres with tree damage other

Primary agents of non-mortality

tree damage (does not include

bears, fire, herbicide damage)

Estimated number of dead trees

Summary for 2022 Season Aerial Detection Survey

December 2022

39.6 million

2.6 million

36.3 million

25,000

July 18th to Oct 7th

California, state-wide

drought, Douglas-fir

canker, needleminers

tussock moth, Cytospora

Information below is based on data recorded and shared by the USDA Forest Service, R5 State & Private Forestry, Aerial Detection Survey (ADS) program.

Surveys are conducted to provide annual estimates of tree mortality and damage and depict broad mortality trends. Most of California's forested areas were surveyed in 2022.

#### Highlights from this year's survey

- Total tree mortality increased significantly both in acres affected and particularly in estimated trees killed from 2021.
   Average severity of mortality was also significantly higher.
- Mortality consisted primarily of true fir which comprised over 77% of the total and was the largest tally ever recorded by R5 ADS. Mortality was particularly severe and widespread in the central Sierra Nevada Range.
- Mortality was particularly severe and widespread in the north interior in several conifer species where drought conditions were most exceptional.
- Mortality attributed to mountain pine beetle (Dendroctonus ponderosae) remained steady with an estimated 380,000 dead trees
  across 44,000 acres in 2021 to approximately 390,000 dead trees across 40,000 acres in 2022. Within this group, whitebark pine
  accounted for most of the mortality occurring throughout its range.
- Douglas-fir mortality (not attributed to damage by bears) increased most dramatically. However, mortality in 2021 was relatively small. 2022 Mortality was common throughout the host range but was particularly concentrated north and west of the Redding
- Pinyon pine mortality attributed to Ips sp. increased from an estimated 60,000 dead trees across 8,400 acres in 2021 to ~220,000 dead trees across 16,000 acres in 2022 mostly in the White Mountains of far eastern CA.
- Incense cedar mortality was quite common and is underrepresented by aerial survey based on field reports as these trees were
  typically smaller size class and thus hard to see from a distance.
- Tanoak mortality attributed to sudden oak death (Phytophthora ramorum) decreased substantially since dry spring weather inhibits the spread of this invasive disease.
- Oak mortality attributed to goldspotted oak borer (Agrilus auroguttatus) decreased significantly and was again concentrated primarily in and around the Palomar Ranger District, Cleveland National Forest in San Diego County.
- Oak discoloration, early leaf-drop, possible dieback and mortality was common throughout interior areas of the state. Actual
  mortality is difficult to detect from a distance, but significant oak mortality is possible over large areas.

Tree Species		2022		2021	1	Percent Change
(Groups)	Acres	Estimated Trees Killed	Acres	Estimated Trees Killed	Acres	Estimated Trees Killed
Red Fir	890,000	15,200,000	490,000	4,500,000	80%	242%
White Fir	1,500,000	12,800,000	290,000	1,600,000	266%	691%
Yellow Pines	340,000	3,800,000	330,000	2,200,000	4%	73%
5 Needle Pines	26,000	310,000	32,000	280,000	-18%	11%
Douglas-Fir	190,000	3,000,000	18,000	170,000	973%	1650%
Other Pines	39,000	570,000	34,000	320,000	15%	79%
Other Conifer	3,300	18,000	1,000	11,000	231%	74%
Oaks	16,000	110,000	26,000	160,000	-39%	-31%

Online resources:

Pacific Southwest Aerial Detection Program

https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/r5/forest-grasslandhealth/?cid=fsbdev3 046696

Scan QR code to visit the program web page for reports, maps, and more information about the Aerial Detection Survey program.



Questions regarding this report should be directed to Jeff Moore at jeffrey.moore@usda.gov or 530-759-1753.



## RESULTS BY COUNTY - 2022

Alpine       62,000       1,200,00         Amador       20,000       310,00         Butte       15,000       160,00         Calaveras       28,000       390,00         Colusa       5,400       68,00         Contra Costa       20       12         Del Norte       19,000       130,00         El Dorado       78,000       1,400,00         Fresno       200,000       1,900,00         Glenn       2,000       28,00         Humboldt       46,000       250,00         Inyo       17,000       300,00         Kern       32,000       270,00         Lake       31,000       590,00         Lassen       120,000       840,00         Los Angeles       1,000       99,20         Madera       44,000       580,00         Marin       160       1,44         Mariposa       60,000       970,00         Mendocino       98,000       1,300,00         Mono       31,000       30,000         Mono       31,000       30,000         Monterey       650       6,300	County	Estimated Number of Acres with Mortality	Estimated Number of Dead Trees
Amador         20,000         310,00           Butte         15,000         160,00           Calaveras         28,000         390,00           Colusa         5,400         68,00           Contra Costa         20         12           Del Norte         19,000         130,00           El Dorado         78,000         1,400,00           Fresno         200,000         1,900,00           Glenn         2,000         28,00           Humboldt         46,000         250,00           Inyo         17,000         300,00           Kern         32,000         270,00           Lake         31,000         590,00           Lassen         120,000         840,00           Los Angeles         1,000         9,20           Madera         44,000         580,00           Marin         160         1,44           Mariposa         60,000         970,00           Mendocino         98,000         1,300,00           Modoc         170,000         2,400,00           Mono         31,000         30,00           Mono         31,000         30,00           Monterey	Alameda	2	86
Butte         15,000         160,00           Calaveras         28,000         390,00           Colusa         5,400         68,00           Contra Costa         20         12           Del Norte         19,000         130,00           El Dorado         78,000         1,400,00           Fresno         200,000         1,900,00           Glenn         2,000         28,00           Humboldt         46,000         250,00           Inyo         17,000         300,00           Kern         32,000         270,00           Lake         31,000         590,00           Lassen         120,000         840,00           Los Angeles         1,000         9,20           Madera         44,000         580,00           Marin         160         1,40           Mariposa         60,000         970,00           Mendocino         98,000         1,300,00           Modoc         170,000         2,400,00           Mono         31,000         300,00           Monterey         650         6,30	Alpine	62,000	1,200,000
Calaveras         28,000         390,00           Colusa         5,400         68,00           Contra Costa         20         12           Del Norte         19,000         130,00           El Dorado         78,000         1,400,00           Fresno         200,000         1,900,00           Glenn         2,000         28,00           Humboldt         46,000         250,00           Inyo         17,000         300,00           Kern         32,000         270,00           Lake         31,000         590,00           Lassen         120,000         840,00           Los Angeles         1,000         9,20           Madera         44,000         580,00           Marin         160         1,40           Mariposa         60,000         970,00           Mendocino         98,000         1,300,00           Modoc         170,000         2,400,00           Mono         31,000         300,00           Monterey         650         6,30	Amador	20,000	310,000
Colusa         5,400         68,00           Contra Costa         20         12           Del Norte         19,000         130,00           El Dorado         78,000         1,400,00           Fresno         200,000         1,900,00           Glenn         2,000         28,00           Humboldt         46,000         250,00           Inyo         17,000         300,00           Kern         32,000         270,00           Lake         31,000         590,00           Lassen         120,000         840,00           Los Angeles         1,000         9,20           Madera         44,000         580,00           Marin         160         1,40           Mariposa         60,000         970,00           Mendocino         98,000         1,300,00           Modec         170,000         2,400,00           Mono         31,000         300,00           Monterey         650         6,30	Butte	15,000	160,000
Contra Costa         20         12           Del Norte         19,000         130,00           El Dorado         78,000         1,400,00           Fresno         200,000         19,000           Glenn         2,000         28,00           Humboldt         46,000         250,00           Inyo         17,000         300,00           Kern         32,000         270,00           Lake         31,000         590,00           Lassen         120,000         840,00           Los Angeles         1,000         9,20           Madera         44,000         580,00           Marin         160         1,40           Mariposa         60,000         970,00           Mendocino         98,000         1,300,00           Modoc         170,000         2,400,00           Mono         31,000         300,00           Monterey         650         6,30	Calaveras	28,000	390,000
Del Norte         19,000         130,00           El Dorado         78,000         1,400,00           Fresno         200,000         1,900,00           Glenn         2,000         28,00           Humboldt         46,000         250,00           Inyo         17,000         300,00           Kern         32,000         270,00           Lake         31,000         590,00           Lassen         120,000         840,00           Los Angeles         1,000         9,20           Madera         44,000         580,00           Marin         160         1,40           Mariposa         60,000         970,00           Mendocino         98,000         1,300,00           Modoe         170,000         2,400,00           Mono         31,000         300,00           Monterey         650         6,30	Colusa	5,400	68,000
El Dorado         78,000         1,400,00           Fresno         200,000         1,900,00           Glenn         2,000         28,00           Humboldt         46,000         250,00           Inyo         17,000         300,00           Kern         32,000         270,00           Lake         31,000         590,00           Lassen         120,000         840,00           Los Angeles         1,000         9,20           Madera         44,000         580,00           Marin         160         1,44           Mariposa         60,000         970,00           Mendocino         98,000         1,300,00           Modoc         170,000         2,400,00           Mono         31,000         300,00           Monterey         650         6,30	Contra Costa	20	120
Fresno         200,000         1,900,00           Glenn         2,000         28,00           Humboldt         46,000         250,00           Inyo         17,000         300,00           Kern         32,000         270,00           Lake         31,000         590,00           Lassen         120,000         840,00           Los Angeles         1,000         9,20           Madera         44,000         580,00           Marin         160         1,40           Mariposa         60,000         970,00           Mendocino         98,000         1,300,00           Modoc         170,000         2,400,00           Mono         31,000         300,00           Monterey         650         6,30	Del Norte	19,000	130,000
Glenn         2,000         28,00           Humboldt         46,000         250,00           Inyo         17,000         300,00           Kern         32,000         270,00           Lake         31,000         590,00           Lassen         120,000         840,00           Los Angeles         1,000         9,20           Madera         44,000         580,00           Marin         160         1,40           Mariposa         60,000         970,00           Mendocino         98,000         1,300,00           Modoc         170,000         2,400,00           Mono         31,000         300,00           Monterey         650         6,30	El Dorado	78,000	1,400,000
Humboldt       46,000       250,00         Inyo       17,000       300,00         Kern       32,000       270,00         Lake       31,000       590,00         Lassen       120,000       840,00         Los Angeles       1,000       9,20         Madera       44,000       580,00         Marin       160       1,40         Mariposa       60,000       970,00         Mendocino       98,000       1,300,00         Modoc       170,000       2,400,00         Mono       31,000       300,00         Monterey       650       6,30	Fresno	200,000	1,900,000
Inyo         17,000         300,00           Kern         32,000         270,00           Lake         31,000         590,00           Lassen         120,000         840,00           Los Angeles         1,000         9,20           Madera         44,000         580,00           Marin         160         1,40           Mariposa         60,000         970,00           Mendocino         98,000         1,300,00           Modoc         170,000         2,400,00           Mono         31,000         300,00           Monterey         650         6,30	Glenn	2,000	28,000
Kern     32,000     270,00       Lake     31,000     590,00       Lassen     120,000     840,00       Los Angeles     1,000     9,20       Madera     44,000     580,00       Marin     160     1,40       Mariposa     60,000     970,00       Mendocino     98,000     1,300,00       Modoc     170,000     2,400,00       Mono     31,000     300,00       Monterey     650     6,30	Humboldt	46,000	250,000
Lake     31,000     590,00       Lassen     120,000     840,00       Los Angeles     1,000     9,20       Madera     44,000     580,00       Marin     160     1,40       Mariposa     60,000     970,00       Mendocino     98,000     1,300,00       Modoc     170,000     2,400,00       Mono     31,000     300,00       Monterey     650     6,30	Inyo	17,000	300,000
Lassen     120,000     840,00       Los Angeles     1,000     9,20       Madera     44,000     580,00       Marin     160     1,40       Mariposa     60,000     970,00       Mendocino     98,000     1,300,00       Modoc     170,000     2,400,00       Mono     31,000     300,00       Monterey     650     6,30	Kern	32,000	270,000
Los Angeles     1,000     9,20       Madera     44,000     580,00       Marin     160     1,40       Mariposa     60,000     970,00       Mendocino     98,000     1,300,00       Modoc     170,000     2,400,00       Mono     31,000     300,00       Monterey     650     6,30	Lake	31,000	590,000
Madera         44,000         580,00           Marin         160         1,40           Mariposa         60,000         970,00           Mendocino         98,000         1,300,00           Modoc         170,000         2,400,00           Mono         31,000         300,00           Monterey         650         6,30	Lassen	120,000	840,000
Marin     160     1,40       Mariposa     60,000     970,00       Mendocino     98,000     1,300,00       Modoc     170,000     2,400,00       Mono     31,000     300,00       Monterey     650     6,30	Los Angeles	1,000	9,200
Mariposa     60,000     970,00       Mendocino     98,000     1,300,00       Modoc     170,000     2,400,00       Mono     31,000     300,00       Monterey     650     6,30	Madera	44,000	580,000
Mendocino         98,000         1,300,00           Modoc         170,000         2,400,00           Mono         31,000         300,00           Monterey         650         6,30	Marin	160	1,400
Modoc         170,000         2,400,00           Mono         31,000         300,00           Monterey         650         6,30	Mariposa	60,000	970,000
Mono         31,000         300,00           Monterey         650         6,30	Mendocino	98,000	1,300,000
Monterey 650 6,30	Modoc	170,000	2,400,000
	Mono	31,000	300,000
Name 2 (00	Monterey	650	6,300
Napa 2,000 4/,00	Napa	2,600	47,000
Nevada 79,000 1,400,00	Nevada	79,000	1,400,000
Orange 3	Orange	3	100
Placer 140,000 3,000,00	Placer	140,000	3,000,000
Plumas 97,000 1,300,00	Plumas	97,000	1,300,000
Riverside 1,000 1,90	Riverside	1,000	1,900
San Benito 61	San Benito	61	61
San Bernardino 3,000 12,00	San Bernardino	3,000	12,000
San Diego 1,800 9,40	San Diego	1,800	9,400
San Luis Obispo 1		1	2
San Francisco 1	San Francisco	1	2
San Luis Obispo 110 2,30	San Luis Obispo	110	2,300
		2,700	19,000
Santa Barbara 300 2,10	Santa Barbara	300	2,100
	Santa Clara		8,200
Santa Cruz 270 1,30	Santa Cruz	270	1,300

Questions regarding this report should be directed to Jeff Moore at jeffrey.moore@usda.gov or 530-759-1753.



## RESULTS BY COUNTY - 2022

	Estimated Number of Acres	Estimated Number of
County	with Mortality	Dead Trees
Shasta	180,000	2,800,000
Sierra	110,000	2,000,000
Siskiyou	310,000	4,100,000
Solano	1	5
Sonoma	7,900	59,000
Sutter	1	2
Tehama	63,000	1,300,000
Trinity	210,000	3,300,000
Tulare	120,000	1,300,000
Tuolumne	120,000	2,200,000
Ventura	5,700	23,000
Yolo	17	48
Yuba	7,500	100,000
Total	2,545,096 acres	36,388,524 dead trees

## RESULTS BY NATIONAL FOREST – 2022

Forest	Estimated Number of Acres with Mortality	Estimated Number of Dead Trees
Angeles National Forest	1,100	10,000
Cleveland National Forest	1,500	8,000
Eldorado National Forest	91,000	1,300,000
Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest	50,000	750,000
Inyo National Forest	78,000	880,000
Klamath National Forest	140,000	1,800,000
Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit	58,000	1,400,000
Lassen National Forest	170,000	1,900,000
Los Padres National Forest	12,000	59,000
Mendocino National Forest	40,000	550,000
Modoc National Forest	180,000	2,200,000
Plumas National Forest	110,000	1,600,000
San Bernardino National Forest	3,900	13,000
Sequoia National Forest	75,000	410,000
Shasta-Trinity National Forest	290,000	4,400,000
Sierra National Forest	180,000	1,700,000
Six Rivers National Forest	24,000	150,000
Stanislaus National Forest	140,000	2,600,000
Tahoe National Forest	260,000	5,000,000
Total	1,904,500 acres	26,730,000 dead trees

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