



**COUNTY OF LAKE
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

Courthouse - 255 North Forbes Street
Lakeport, California 95453
TELEPHONE (707) 263-2368
FAX (707) 263-2207

Helen Owen – District 1

Bruno Sabatier – District 2

Eddie Crandell – District 3

Brad Rasmussen – District 4

Jessica Pyska – District 5

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California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
715 P Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Letter of Support for the “Public-Private Partnerships to Improve Forest Health and Resilience in Napa and Lake Counties” Project - CAL FIRE Forest Health Grant Program

To Whom it May Concern:

The Lake County Board of Supervisors is pleased to express our support for the Napa County Resource Conservation District’s (Napa RCD’s) grant application to the CAL FIRE Forest Health program for the “Public-Private Partnerships to Improve Forest Health and Resilience in Napa and Lake Counties” project.

This large-scale, 800+ acre vegetation management project will span Lake Hennessey, Moore Creek Park, and Snowden Vineyards in Napa County and Six Sigma Ranch in Lake County. Napa RCD is partnering with key public, private, and nonprofit entities to successfully deliver this project. They include the City of Napa, Napa County Regional Parks and Open Space District (NOSD), Suscol Intertribal Council (Suscol ITC), and Snowden Vineyards in Napa County, as well as Lake County Resource Conservation District (Lake RCD) and Six Sigma Ranch in Lake County. The project leverages a variety of ecologically-minded methods, including manual thinning and pruning, prescribed fire, and invasive species removal, to improve forest health and resilience to climate change, protect and steward the region’s precious biodiversity and natural resources, and reduce the devastating impacts of wildfire. The project footprint includes important park and recreation areas in both counties as well as a primary drinking water source for the City of Napa.

Years of successful collaboration have led to the proposed project. Napa RCD worked with the City of Napa, NOSD and Snowden Vineyards to develop forest management plans for their properties included in the proposed project, and Napa RCD collaborates with the City, NOSD, and Suscol ITC on outreach and education. Napa RCD has also been collaborating with Lake RCD on planning and implementing sustainable forest management, wildfire prevention, and the preservation of critical habitats. Since 2019, Napa RCD and Lake RCD have worked together to secure and deliver over \$800,000 in federal technical assistance grants to support these activities. With Lake RCD’s significant growth over the past two years, partnering with Napa RCD on capacity building and project fiscal management will be valuable for Lake RCD’s continued growth.

Furthermore, as demonstrated by their role administering a Department of Conservation Regional Forest and Fire Capacity block grant across a six-county region, Napa RCD is a trusted partner in broader regional efforts towards forest health and wildfire resilience, and coordinates priorities and activities closely with local, regional, and state partners. As such, these organizations bring the expertise, resources, and proven track record needed to ensure the project's success.

This project aligns with the Lake County Board of Supervisors' efforts to support projects that build wildfire resilience and restore forest health across Lake County by reducing fuels and restoring oak woodlands while building the capacity of Lake RCD to develop, plan, and implement future fuels reduction projects.

The Lake County Board of Supervisors fully supports this project and recognizes its potential to significantly enhance forest health and resilience not only for our environment but for our communities. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

COUNTY OF LAKE

Chair, Lake County Board of Supervisors