



**COUNTY OF LAKE
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

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December 17, 2024

Coalitions and Collaboratives' Action, Implementation, and Mitigation Program Grant
2432 South Downing Street, Suite 200
Denver, CO 80210

RE: Support for the Lake County Fire Safe Council's Capacity Building and CMAT Implementation
- Phase II application for funding

Dear COCO AIM Team,

On behalf of The County of Lake Board of Supervisors, I am writing to express our support for the 2024-2025 COCO AIM grant application entitled "*Lake County Fire Safe Council Capacity Building and CMAT Implementation - Phase II*" project submitted by the Lake County Resource Conservation District (LCRCD). We encourage and appreciate the continued capacity development of the county-wide Lake County Fire Safe Council (LCFSC) because its mission is to educate and empower all residents, including those previously under-represented in risk mitigation projects.

This project expands upon previous capacity building initiatives for LCRCD and LCFSC. This previous effort provided capacity for LCRCD to hire a new Executive Director, build internal capacity for LCFSC, and develop a 5-Year Strategic Plan. However, additional capacity is needed to build towards implementation and achieve LCFSC's stated goals. Lake County continues to face a catastrophic decline in forest health from years of drought, beetle infestation, and over 66% percent of the County has suffered from extreme wildfires, which continues to be a primary concern for Lake County and its residents. Further, the majority of the County remains categorized as a "disadvantaged community" and is in the "high" or "very-high" fire hazard severity risk rating by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE).

This project includes: 1) implementation of the new LCFSC 5-Year Strategic Plan, 2) implementation of a Communications Plan to serve as a resource and central clearinghouse for wildfire resilience messaging within Lake County, 3) further development and management of the new LCFSC Mobile Tool Cache, and 4) the ongoing convening of monthly LCFSC meetings, more effective tracking of partner activities, and prioritization of Lake County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) projects for implementation. Collectively, this is what the county needs to reduce wildfire risk and ensure community safety and resiliency.

The County of Lake Board of Supervisors is confident in the ability of the LCRCO to implement this project and the value of investment in greater capacity of the LCFSC to support our residents. We fully support this application and are confident in the lasting benefits this project will provide our region.

Respectfully,

COUNTY OF LAKE

Michael Green

Chair, Lake County Board of Supervisors