



LAKE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

1220 Martin Street • P.O. Box 489 • Lakeport, California 95453

Administration
(707) 262-4200

Central Dispatch
(707) 263-2690

Coroner
(707) 262-4215

Corrections
(707) 262-4240

Patrol/Investigation
(707) 262-4200

Rob Howe
Sheriff / Coroner / Director, Office of Emergency Services

March 7, 2023

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

RE: Emergency Proclamation and Board Ratification and Reaffirmation for Lake County Low Elevation Snow and Extreme Cold Event, February 2023

Dear Director Ward:

As a result of pervasive low elevation snow and persistent extreme cold, resulting in property damage and peril to human welfare, I Proclaimed the existence of a Local State of Emergency in Lake County on Friday, February 24, 2023, pursuant to Section 6-5 of the Lake County Code. The Emergency Proclamation was thereafter ratified by the Lake County Board of Supervisors on Tuesday, February 28, 2023, and re-affirmed the Board of Supervisors with the addition of specific requests for support on Tuesday, March 7.

We are asking that Governor Newsom add Lake to the 13 Counties Proclaimed to be under a State of Emergency on March 1, waive regulations that may hinder response and recovery efforts, and authorize release of resources under the California Disaster Assistance Act (CDAA, pursuant to Chapter 7.5 of the California Government Code and California Code of Regulations, Title 19, Division 2, Chapter 6), and forward a supported request to the Federal Emergency Management Agency for Stafford Act Assistance.

Similarly to counties already covered by the Governor's Emergency Proclamation, low elevation snow and extreme cold enveloped Lake County beginning Thursday, February 23, and power outages due to storm-related damage became very widespread in the early morning hours of February 24, 2023.

Snowpack, dangerously low temperatures, and lack of electric heating sources presented great peril to human life and property. Trees fell in and near County roadways and public rights of way, demanding considerable expenditure of time and resources by the County staff.

To limit risk to human life, two Warming Centers were established by the County of Lake, in Lower Lake and Middletown. Additionally, a hotline was established for Homebound Individuals unable to access critical services due to the severe winter weather. County staff time and resources were also utilized in support of local hospitals and Emergency Medical Services, due to considerable demand, and limited ability to travel on icy and snow-covered roadways.

As you will be aware, Lake County has also been recently affected by an Atmospheric River Event that brought widespread flood damage, in addition to an unparalleled series of wildfire events, including 2020's historic August Complex event, at the time the largest in terms of total acreage in California's history. Historic vegetation losses have also occurred due to drought, multi-species bark beetle infestation and Tree Mortality. Management of debris flows has likewise been an area of material concern, and snow melt from the recent storm will bring new challenges. Additional rainfall in the coming weeks could exacerbate

Data collection is ongoing for our Initial Damage Estimate, and this may take some time, due to considerable debris resulting from the storms. Clean up efforts will continue for some weeks.

We appreciate Governor Newsom's and your office's timely attention to this matter, and thank you for your further assistance and consideration.

Sincerely,

Rob Howe
Sheriff/Coroner/OES Director

DRAFT