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January 13, 2026

The Honorable Michael Lunas
Presiding Judge, Superior Court
County of Lake
255 North Forbes Street
Lakeport, CA 95453

RE: Supplemental Response to the 2024/2025 Civil Grand Jury Final Report

Dear Judge Lunas:

Pursuant to Penal Code Section 933 et seq., the Board of Supervisors, which concurrently serves as the Board of Directors for Lake County Air Quality Management District and Lake County Watershed Protection District, submits this Supplemental response to the FY 2024/2025 Civil Grand Jury's Final Report. Our Board's responses are presented in the same sequence as the annotated Findings appear in the Grand Jury's Final Report.

The Lake County Board of Supervisors greatly appreciates each member of the Civil Grand Jury, and the considerable efforts undertaken in preparation of each year's Grand Jury Reports. We share the Civil Grand Jury's interest in ensuring all residents are well served and continually seek to maintain and improve services within resource and other limitations.

RESPONSE TO CIVIL GRAND JURY RECOMMENDATIONS

“VALLEY FIRE CONFLAGRATION: 10-YEAR ANNIVERSARY ON SEPTEMBER 12, 2025”
No Findings Requesting or Requiring a Response of the Board of Supervisors.

“A BURNING ISSUE IN LAKE COUNTY

Please additionally see Lake County Air Quality Management District's detailed Response for further information responsive to Findings included in this report. Valuable context is provided by those responses. Our Board takes customer service-focused concerns raised in the Grand Jury's report seriously, and is aware County Administrative Office staff have offered support to LCAQMD leadership and staff, where appropriate.

F1. Communications between LCAQMD and the fire districts back in 2024 resulted in a decision by both parties that the fire districts would no longer be issuing Residential Burn Permits independently of LCAQMD.

AGREE with Finding. Please review additional context provided in the Air Quality Management District Response.

F2. In 2024-2025, LCAQMD entered into an agreement with the six fire districts that all RBPs were to be issued online, in-person, and on the telephone only through LCAQMD.

AGREE with Finding. Please review additional context provided in the Air Quality Management District Response.

F3. There is a difference between the RBPs issued through the LCAQMD website and those issued through the Cal Fire website, which go directly to the fire districts and require purchasers to watch an instructional video on controlled burns before RBP approval. Many of these RBPs are for “exception” burns, and, when the location is within an SRA or FRA region, watching the instructional controlled burn video is required.

AGREE with Finding. Please review additional context provided in the Air Quality Management District Response.

F4. The fire districts as of 2024-2025 are no longer issuing RBPs to the public but have turned that task over to the LCAQMD. The fire districts will continue to assist LCAQMD with all RBP “exceptions” site inspections through the year as a point of fire mitigation.

AGREE with Finding. Please review additional context provided in the Air Quality Management District Response.

F5. When Lake County residents obtain a Residential Burn Permit online but actually need an Agricultural Burn Permit instead, they may execute a controlled burn that becomes a break-out burn and will require fire-district emergency intervention and put the County at risk.

AGREE with Finding. Please review additional context provided in the Air Quality Management District Response.

F6. The signage on the LCAQMD building/facility in Lakeport is difficult to see from the access road due to positioning, sign size, and size of lettering, causing difficulty in locating it for the residents traveling there.

AGREE with Finding. Please review additional context provided in the Air Quality Management District Response.

F7. It was not possible to talk to someone in-person or by telephone when contacting LCAQMD to obtain a Residential Burn Permit, between October 11– November 22, 2024, due to no staff when our juror visited or called LCAQMD.

AGREE with Finding. Please review additional context provided in the Air Quality Management District Response.

F8. There have been staffing problems at LCAQMD since mid-2024.

AGREE with Finding.

Explanation: As members of the Grand Jury will appreciate, the Board of Supervisors' role in addressing staffing issues (sitting as Board of Directors of Lake County Air Quality Management District) is limited, and subject to resource availability and other limitations. Programmatic and enforcement decisions reside with the Lake County Air Quality Management District pursuant to statutory authority. The Board continues to exercise its responsibilities, and support position allocation requests in accordance with priority and resource limitations. Please also review additional context provided in the Air Quality Management District Response.

F9. The APCO of LCAQMD had 2.8 employees and needed 6 employees. Recently, LCAQMD hired two engineers just out of college.

AGREE with Finding. The information presented is accurate, per Lake County's Air Pollution Control Officer; please see F8. Response and the Air Quality Management District's Response for further context.

F10. The fire districts reported dealing with the LCAQMD computer system as frustrating, inefficient, and prone to repeated malfunctioning, break-downs, lapses in operation, problems with pop-ups, and overall failing to work consistently. These problems, while reported to LCAQMD, remain unsolved.

DISAGREE partially with Finding.

Explanation: Please review additional context provided in the Air Quality Management District Response.

F11. Fire districts support residents with smaller than 1-acre parcels utilizing controlled burn "exceptions" for their necessary burns.

AGREE with Finding. Please review additional context provided in the Air Quality Management District Response.

F12. The APCO of LCAQMD is not in favor overall of "exception" burns because of problems they cause with air-quality parameters, despite the fact that Lake County residents need to be able to utilize "exception" burns.

DISAGREE wholly with Finding.

Explanation: Please review the Air Quality Management District Response, which notes legal compliance and public health concerns are among factors that may affect approval of "exception" burns.

F13. Fire districts prefer that residents who need to utilize "exception" burns obtain RBPs on the Cal Fire website so the request can be reviewed initially by a fire specialist, instead of purchasing the RBP for an "exception" burn on the LCAQMD website.

DISAGREE wholly with Finding.

Explanation: The Board of Supervisors/Board of Directors for Lake County Air Quality Management District defers to Fire Districts with regard to their Districts' preferences. However, the Air Pollution Control Officer indicates the CAL FIRE website does not presently issue residential burn permits in Lake County; the applicant is instead referred to LCAQMD.

F14. Public referrals to alternative debris-disposal methods that appear on the Residential Burn Permit application under 'Alternative Vegetation Disposal Methods' contain information that is incorrect.

DISAGREE wholly with Finding.

Explanation: Please review additional context provided in the Air Quality Management District Response.

F15. The combined efforts of, and open lines of communication between, the fire district staff and offices and LCAQMD staff and offices are required to assure the safety of all controlled burns by County residents.

AGREE with Finding.

F16. The APCO of LCAQMD needs to attend the monthly meetings of the six fire protection districts to facilitate open lines of communication.

DISAGREE wholly with Finding.

Explanation: Please review additional context provided in the Air Quality Management District Response.

F17. With RBPs now under the jurisdiction of LCAQMD, whose office is located in Lakeport, the public may need additional "satellite sites" around the Lake where they may connect with LCAQMD via internet, telephone, or in-person representatives for help with RBPs, permits of any kind and other help and information. These could take the form of kiosks, libraries, or local businesses/agencies who can assist the public with LCAQMD products and services.

DISAGREE with Finding.

Explanation: Please see the attached Air Quality Management District Response for important context; LCAQMD's online permitting system can be accessed via all Lake County Library locations, for example. As previously stated, our Board takes customer service-focused concerns raised in the Grand Jury's report seriously, and is aware County Administrative Office staff have offered support to LCAQMD leadership and staff, where appropriate.

F18. The Residential Burn Permit Application Form is in need of many changes, which are discussed in detail in this report, including suggested changes to the permit "WARNINGS."

DISAGREE partially with Finding.

Explanation: Please review the Air Quality Management District Response, which notes existing language implements enforceable legal requirements.

"A BUILDING IN TIME"

No response was required or requested of the Board of Supervisors.

"ACCOLADE: 'EVERY 15 MINUTES'"

"ACCOLADE: GEORGINA MARIE GUARDADO"

"ACCOLADE: THE LAKE COUNTY BOOKMOBILE"

“ACCOLADE FOR OPERATION TANGO MIKE: A 21-YEAR COMMITMENT TO MILITARY SUPPORT”

“ACCOLADE: OLGA MARTIN STEELE HOMETOWN HERO”

No response was required or requested of the Board of Supervisors, but this Board very much appreciates these deserving persons and organizations being recognized by the 2024-25 Lake County Civil Grand Jury. Please see the Lake County Librarian’s Response for further information responsive to reports on Georgina Marie Guardado and the Lake County Bookmobile.

“HIGHWAY HAVOC: FIRST RESPONDERS’ ADAPTATION DURING CATTLE TRUCK OVERTURNS”

Please see Lake County Sheriff-Coroner and Animal Care and Control Responses for further information responsive to this report.

F3. The command team needs to have immediate and reliable communication via Star-Link satellite to be able to acquire volunteer assistance and containment materials to keep persons and animals safe.

AGREE with Finding. Lake County Sheriff, Luke Bingham, indicates the Sheriff’s Office has several Starlink devices capable of deployment anywhere in Lake County.

F9. To date, neither an OES Large Animal Response Annex nor internal policies and procedures addressing livestock animal emergencies has been completed by Animal Care and Control.

AGREE with Finding. Per Interim Lake County Animal Care and Control Director, Stephen L. Carter, Jr., it is anticipated the Grand Jury’s associated Recommendation will be implemented by the end of Fiscal Year 2025-26.

F10. Animal Care and Control currently lacks a veterinarian who could provide necessary assistance to the first responders and the livestock during trailer rollovers.

AGREE with finding. The Interim Director indicates Lake County Animal Care and Control has been grateful for the support of contracted community veterinarians in support of critical veterinary needs and in the event of emergencies. The policies discussed in F9 will further strengthen the Department’s capacity to respond.

F11. Animal Care and Control has not reactivated its LEAP animal disaster service that could have responded to the first two rollovers.

DISAGREE with finding.

Explanation: The Interim Director appropriately notes, while Animal Care and Control personnel respond to animal-focused emergency needs during disaster events, LEAP is not a County-administered program. Therefore, the Department would not independently reactive LEAP. However, our Board is encouraged outreach is currently underway to explore restoring availability of LEAP.

“DISTRICT ATTORNEY’S OFFICE LETS POTENTIAL CASES GO UNFILED DUE TO EXPIRATION OF STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS”

No response was required or requested of the Board of Supervisors. Reviewers are directed to the District Attorney’s own Response.

“LAKE COUNTY’S DIRECTOR-LEVEL HIRING PRACTICES”

F1. Interviews of Board-appointed County of Lake Department heads may be conducted in-person or remotely via Zoom. The Animal Control Director was hired on October 22, 2024, with no in-person interview.

AGREE with Finding. As noted in the County Administrative Office’s Response, multiple interviews were conducted via teleconference, and our Board had sufficient confidence to make the appointment.

F2. Lake County does not have temporary housing to offer relocating new-hires.

AGREE with Finding.

F3. A relocation fund of \$3,500 is not enough for relocating new-hires to afford temporary rental housing.

AGREE with Finding. However, as the County Administrative Office’s Response indicated, funds provided are intended to support demonstrated moving expenses in accordance with IRS guidelines, not encompass all housing-related costs.

F4. Whether the realtors and rental agencies included in the Employee Moving Resource Guide are screened by members of the Lake County Association of Realtors or the Chamber of Commerce was not determined.

DISAGREE partially with Finding. Explanation: This content does not include a specific Finding. However, the Lake County Association of Realtors and Chamber of Commerce did not directly contribute to the Employee Moving Resource Guide.

F5. The Animal Control Director did not live in Lake County, often worked remotely, and was not readily available to respond to emergencies.

DISAGREE partially with Finding. Explanation: While the referenced Animal Control Director did not permanently reside in Lake County and often worked remotely, he was never inaccessible during any emergency event.

F6. On May 20, 2025, the Board of Supervisors approved extending the effective resignation date of the Animal Care and Control Director to June 30, 2025.

AGREE with Finding.

F7. Human Resources does not routinely conduct interviews with departing employees.

AGREE with Finding. While not mandatory, the option is given, and the responsible Department would most typically conduct an “Exit Interview,” if one takes place. In some cases, the Human Resources Division may be notified after an employee has already departed County service.

F8. The Employee Moving Resource Guide does not provide demographic data to help new hires from out-of-state better understand the composition of Lake County residents.

AGREE with Finding. Please additionally see Recommendation Response (included below, for ease of reference).

“THE STATUS OF THE CYANOBACTERIA BLOOM IN CLEAR LAKE”

F1. The ongoing algae bloom in Clear Lake is increasing and will continue to increase unless effective treatment is instituted.

DISAGREE partially with Finding.

Explanation: Per Lake County’s Water Resources Director, Pawan Upadhyay, while recent observations indicate algae blooms in Clear Lake may be increasing, additional long-term data and continued scientific analysis are needed to conclusively determine trends. As members of the Grand Jury will be aware, our Board has supported multiple projects intended to meaningfully act on Clear Lake’s Water Quality.

F2. Cyanobacteria poses substantial health and financial risks to Lake County and its human and animal residents.

AGREE with Finding.

F3. The Blue Ribbon Committee for the Preservation of Clear Lake has recommended two of the experiments (LG Sonic Buoy, HOS) and is beginning the investigation of the NBOT experiment.

AGREE with Finding.

F4. The LG Sonic Wave Buoys system will be initiated during the Summer of 2025.

DISAGREE wholly with Finding.

Explanation: The Water Resources Director notes coordination is ongoing with State and Federal agencies to complete the required Environmental Assessment for the project. The process is taking longer than initially anticipated, and deployment cannot proceed until the Environmental Assessment is completed and approved.

F5. The size of the 14 Buoys will constitute a collision hazard to Clear Lake boaters.

DISAGREE partially with Finding.

Explanation: Our Board is committed to the safety of boaters and others who utilize our County’s defining feature, Clear Lake. Dr. Upadhyay indicates buoys are relatively small (*approximately comparable to a small boat*) and will be spaced apart. Clear signage will likewise be posted at public launch ramps to inform boaters of buoy locations, with the intent of mitigating potential collisions.

“DOES LAKE PILLSBURY HAVE A FUTURE?”

Please see the Lake County Sheriff-Coroner and Public Works Director’s Responses for further information responsive to this report.

F1. PG&E is set to decommission the Scott Dam in the near future, with serious impacts on many aspects of Lake Pillsbury’s environment, ecology, and resident safety.

DISAGREE wholly with finding.

Explanation: Our Board recognizes PG&E’s intent to Decommission Scott Dam, and agrees with the Lake County Civil Grand Jury’s sense that the Dam’s removal (as currently envisioned by PG&E) would have serious consequences. The Protest and

Comments found at the below link address some of those concerns. Should dam removal proceed, on any timeline, it would be subject to State, Federal and local regulatory processes, and our Board's position is PG&E has not yet demonstrated the project can be safely undertaken. Environmental, ecological and public safety concerns are among those insufficiently addressed, to date.

<https://www.lakecountyca.gov/DocumentCenter/View/15474/Protest-and-Comments-of-the-County-of-Lake>

F5. Fresh water for the residents will be severely impacted by the decommissioning of the Scott Dam and the loss of Lake Pillsbury.

AGREE with Finding. This is another matter that drives our Board's concern PG&E has not yet demonstrated Decommissioning of Scott Dam is a safe option. The Lake County Board of Supervisors opposes removal of Scott Dam.

F6. All the roads in the Lake Pillsbury area are in dire need of repair.

DISAGREE partially with Finding.

Explanation: This matter is not fully within the authority and jurisdiction of the County of Lake. Roads into and out of the Lake Pillsbury area are maintained by a network of entities including Lake and Mendocino Counties' respective Public Works Departments, Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E), and the United States Forest Service. All County responsibility roads are maintained in accordance with priority and within resource limitations. The Board of Supervisors has consistently stated PG&E should be expected to improve roads in the area of Lake Pillsbury, should Decommissioning of Scott Dam proceed. Please see the Departmental Response of Public Works Director, Lars Ewing, for additional detail and context.

F10. Raising the level of Scott Dam could solve a myriad of issues such as decreasing the algae bloom, saving the hitch, improving water quality, and perpetuating the recreational use of [Lake Pillsbury].

DISAGREE wholly with Finding.

Explanation: As previously noted in response to Recommendation 7, the County of Lake does not own or operate Scott Dam. Some information needed to fully assess the concept described by Finding 10 is not publicly available. However, our Board supports exploration of alternative scenarios; PG&E's application included only a no-action alternative. Five alternative scenarios to PG&E proposed Decommissioning of Scott Dam were presented by SLR International Corporation in their report accessible here, and referenced in recent Protest and Comments submitted to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC):

<https://www.lakecountyca.gov/DocumentCenter/View/15474/Protest-and-Comments-of-the-County-of-Lake>

“MEDICAL SERVICES AT THE LAKE COUNTY JAIL”

Please additionally see the Response from Lake County Health Services.

F1. In several reviewed cases, inmates experienced delays in receiving necessary medications even though medications were ultimately dispensed.

AGREE with Finding.

Explanation: Per Director, Anthony Arton, the Health Services Department acknowledges some cases experienced delays; factors contributing to delays included vendor delivery timelines, formulary verification requirements, and staffing limitations. Our Board is aware Health Services staff continue to work with Wellpath to support timely medication administration.

F-2: Staffing shortages contribute to delays in inmates receiving medications.

AGREE with Finding. The Health Services Director notes recruitment challenges for licensed medical personnel continue to affect healthcare delivery in many rural jurisdictions, including Lake County, and these challenges can affect medication scheduling. Our Board is aware Health Services staff and Wellpath remain engaged in ongoing recruitment and staffing stabilization efforts.

F-3: There are no psychiatric technicians on staff; Wellpath representatives reported difficulty hiring for these positions.

AGREE with Finding. Director Arton indicates Psychiatric Technicians remain difficult to recruit throughout California, particularly in rural areas. While Psychiatric Technicians are not currently part of the contracted staffing model, Behavioral Health needs within the facility are monitored and managed.

F-4: The contract requires an RN to be on site 12 hours daily.

AGREE with Finding.

F-5: Complete documentation confirming full RN staffing in 2023 and 2024 was not provided at the time of this report.

AGREE with Finding.

F-6: The Grand Jury was unable to verify the amount of reimbursements for RN staffing shortages, as required by contract.

AGREE with Finding.

F-7: The County and Wellpath are not abiding by the contract by not providing an end-of-year audit of RN hours.

AGREE with Finding. Our Board is aware an end-of-year staffing reconciliation is required. The Health Services Director represents final audit materials were delayed due to documentation gaps and staffing verification issues, and staff are working with Wellpath to complete the outstanding audit and strengthen processes going forward.

F-8: The current inmate medical complaint system involves a multi-step process that may take up to 18 days. While procedural safeguards exist, there is no clear emergency protocol for ensuring timely delivery of life-sustaining medications (e.g., insulin) during grievance review.

DISAGREE partially with Finding.

Explanation: Director Arton indicates urgent medical needs including access to life-sustaining medications are addressed through clinical protocols outside the grievance system, and emergency medical care is not dependent on grievance review timelines.

Our Board is aware Health Services staff intend to continue working with Wellpath to ensure protocols remain clear and consistently applied.

“DON’T MOVE A MUSSEL,’ AN ALARMING NEW THREAT TO LAKE COUNTY WATERWAYS”

Please additionally see the Response from the Department of Water Resources.

F1. The Golden Mussel has not yet been added to Ordinance 2936, resulting in possible loss of funding

AGREE with Finding. Dr. Pawan Upadhyay, Lake County’s Water Resources Director, previously signaled his intent to add the Golden Mussel to Ordinance 2936 by the end of Fiscal Year 2025-26.

F2. Boat inspection fines need to be increased to generate additional revenue for boat inspections.

DISAGREE wholly with Finding.

Explanation: The following was previously communicated in response to Recommendation 2 and is relevant here.

As members of the Grand Jury will be aware, adjustments were made to Article IX of Chapter 15 of the Lake County Code April 15, 2025, in consideration of threats posed by Golden Mussels and resource limitations. At this time, Lake County’s Water Resources Director, Pawan Upadhyay, PhD, does not recommend an increase in fines.

F3. Boats entering Clear Lake from private access points may not be subject to inspection.

DISAGREE wholly with Finding.

Explanation: As noted by Director Upadhyay, all boats entering Clear Lake may be subject to inspection.

F4. In fourteen years since the alert for Quagga and Zebra mussels, no credible report of mussel infestation in Clear Lake has been reported.

AGREE with finding.

F5. Non-motor watercrafts are not inspected.

DISAGREE wholly with Finding.

Explanation: As noted by Director Upadhyay, all boats entering Clear Lake may be subject to inspection.

F6. The Yolo County Flood Control & Water Conservation District has a vested financial interest in keeping the Golden Mussel from invading Clear Lake.

DISAGREE wholly with Finding.

Explanation: Yolo County Flood Control & Water Conservation District is the appropriate entity to address a Finding regarding their District’s interests.

F7. Seventeen Lake County water districts have a vested financial interest in keeping the Golden Mussel from invading Clear Lake.

DISAGREE wholly with Finding.

Explanation: Our Board and the Lake County Water Resources Department are concerned to promote the health of Clear Lake for all users, and staff have informed our Board and the public of threats posed by the Golden Mussel. It is our expectation Special Districts Administration and Water Resources Department staff will act to protect Clear Lake Water Quality and County-maintained infrastructure, in consideration of available funding and other resources.

“THE STATE OF GROUNDWATER IN LAKE COUNTY”

Detailed Responses to Findings and Recommendations associated with this Report were previously submitted by Pawan Upadhyay, PhD, Lake County’s Water Resources Director, and are included here, for reference.

F1. In 2042, Lake County is projected to be out of compliance with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act.

DISAGREE partially with Finding.

Explanation: As previously noted by Dr. Upadhyay:

The projection that Lake County will be out of compliance with SGMA in 2042, would require substantial deviations from normal groundwater trends over the last 30 years, and does not account for the groundwater management efforts currently in effect. The Grand Jury summary stated that “Lake County is facing a significant potential groundwater deficit in the Big Valley Basin, projected to be a loss of as many as 25,000 acre-feet per year by 2024 if steps are not taken to meet the requirements of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). For context, the 2024 annual water report for Big Valley stated that total groundwater extractions for 2024 totaled 25,100 acre-feet, and this includes all withdrawals, from agriculture, municipal users, small water systems, and all of the groundwater taken up by vegetation within the basin. For Lake County to be in such a significant deficit per year by 2024 would require enormous changes to the existing system, including large population increases, record level groundwater pumpings, and prolonged drought conditions beyond the scope of what has been experienced, or likely anticipated. That is not to say that changes and fluctuations in climate, population, and agricultural activities cannot make significant impacts to groundwater levels, but a projected deficit of 25,000 acre-feet per year does not take into account usage trendlines in the valley, or management decisions meant to keep Lake County’s groundwater resources in balance. For instance, as the Groundwater Sustainability Plan of 2022 states, “Despite seasonal and climate-influenced short-term fluctuations, groundwater levels in the basin remained stable over the last three decades”, with an average annual change in groundwater storage of 200 acre-feet per year, a small increase over time. This, despite multi-year droughts, changes in agricultural products and production, and increases in population over that time period. Estimates of a 25,000 acre-feet deficit also do not reflect the ongoing work our department is doing to manage groundwater resources for long-term viability. Lake County Department of Water Resources is undertaking multiple actions to

ensure groundwater levels remain substantial and available for generations. The department conducts well readings to monitor groundwater levels across the county, in particular, Big Valley and Scotts Valley, where drinking water is sourced for county residents and important agricultural activity is dependent on adequate groundwater reserves. We also have a number of grant projects underway or developed for near-future action, including conjunctive use studies (diverting surface water to recharge groundwater levels), infrastructural fixes to existing water detention structures (please see below), and other projects designed to study groundwater basins throughout the county to determine recharge capabilities and expanded holding capacity potential. Management decisions, expanded monitoring, and projects meant to aide in groundwater recharge and retention, all work to maintain our compliance in SGMA, and for the long-term management of our groundwater resources.

F2. The Big Valley Basin is the only Lake County Basin being monitored by the State of CA.

AGREE with Finding. As previously noted by the Water Resources Director:

Long-term monitoring and data collection have been undertaken by the County to provide oversight and understanding of our basins in Lake County. While it is true that the State has focused solely on Big Valley because it is considered a medium priority basin, California Department of Water Resources is expanding its focus to groundwater recharge, in particular, surface water diversions to supplement existing groundwater. If, or when, the State determines to expand their focus on additional groundwater basins, Lake County will have the data developed to make appropriate management decisions.

“GRAND JURY REPORT ON SITE VISIT TO MENDOCINO COUNTY JUVENILE HALL: APRIL 9, 2025”

No response was required or requested of the Lake County Board of Supervisors.

“GRAND JURY SITE VISIT TO KONOCTI CONSERVATION CAMP #27: APRIL 10, 2025”

No response was required or requested of the Lake County Board of Supervisors.

“LITHIUM-ION BATTERY FIRES: LEARNING TO MANAGE THE RISK”

Please additionally see the Response from the Sheriff-Coroner.

F1. Lithium-Ion batteries power a wide range of consumer products, from electric vehicles to e-bikes/e-scooters/electric wheelchairs to e-cigarettes to portable electronic devices to cellphones to solar energy/battery storage facilities.

AGREE with Finding.

F2. The number of fires caused by lithium-ion batteries is growing.

AGREE with Finding.

F3. Lithium-ion fires have unique attributes and are difficult to extinguish.

AGREE with Finding.

F-4: These fires have four major impacts: injuries/deaths, emergency agencies' response, service disruption, and monetary losses.

AGREE with Finding, noting effects may include, but are not limited to, those described.

F5. The public generally is not well informed about safe storage, charging, and disposal of lithium-ion batteries in consumer products.

DISAGREE partially with Finding.

Explanation: Threats associated with storage, charging and disposal of lithium-ion batteries in consumer products have received considerable coverage, and significant information is therefore accessible to the general public. As previously noted by this Board in response to Recommendation 1, associated with this Report, the Lake County Sheriff, as Emergency Services Director for the County of Lake, is authorized to prepare and distribute educational materials on All-Hazard threat preparedness on an ongoing basis, and Ready.LakeCountyCA.gov contains many such resources.

“ACCOLADE: BEVERLY BENEDICT HILL”

No response was required or requested of the Board of Supervisors. Our Board is deeply appreciative of the tremendous contributions Beverly Benedict Hill has made to Lake County’s Civil Grand Jury.

This concludes the Board of Supervisors’ Response to the 2024/2025 Civil Grand Jury Final Report.

Sincerely,

LAKE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Brad Rasmussen
Chair, Lake County Board of Supervisors

cc: 2024-2025 Civil Grand Jury Foreperson
2025-2026 Civil Grand Jury Foreperson