



**COUNTY OF LAKE
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

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CAL FIRE / Wildfire Prevention Grants
Sacramento, CA

March 7, 2023

Subject: The Tree Mortality Mitigation and Public Safety in Lake County - 22-WP-LNU
47229043

Dear CAL FIRE Northern Region,

On behalf of the County of Lake, I am writing to express our support for the 2023 CAL FIRE Wildfire Prevention grant application entitled “*Tree Mortality Mitigation and Public Safety in Lake County*” (TMMPS) project submitted by the Lake County Resource Conservation District (LCRCD). The County of Lake encourages local community engagement in effective wildfire risk reduction activities. The TMMPS project is critical for our landscape resilience, community security, and advances our mission to reduce risk for our residents. It is also aligned with the priorities set by Lake County’s 2021 US Forest Service Community Mitigation Assistance Team (CMAT) report and the County’s Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP).

This project is critical for Lake County due to a catastrophic decline in forest health from years of drought, beetle infestation, and over 66% percent of the County having suffered from extreme wildfires. Further, the majority of the County remains in the “high” or “very-high” fire risk severity rating. The TMMPS project presented by the LCRCD addresses these issues in a number of key ways: 1) mitigating the risk of tree mortality by removal of dead and dying trees along evacuation routes; 2) hazardous tree removal and roadside clearing along key public and private ingress/egress; 3) data analysis and development of a practical platform for regular use of the new Department of Conservation funded LIDAR surveys to better manage forest health; and 4) education of our key partners, the LCRCD and the Lake County Fire Safe Council, by providing leadership training, and educational outreach to our residents, which will ultimately increase the County’s collaborative risk reduction activities. Overall, this project will improve public safety and decrease hazardous fire risk, which will subsequently reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve forest health, and enhance the vitality of Lake County.

The County of Lake is confident in the ability of the Lake County Resource Conservation District to carry out and implement this project. We look forward to joining the network of local and tribal governments, State agencies, civic groups, and community-based organizations slated for inclusion in this project. We fully support their efforts and will do what we can to enhance the collaboration. We are enthusiastic about the lasting benefits this project will provide throughout our region.

Sincerely,

Jessica Pyska, Chair
Lake County Board of Supervisors