



**COUNTY OF LAKE  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

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February 22, 2023

Ms. Kostoula Villianos  
California State Coastal Conservancy  
1515 Clay St. #10<sup>TH</sup>  
Oakland, CA 94612

**RE: Letter of Support for LiDAR Derivatives**

Dear Ms. Villianos and the California State Coastal Conservancy:

As you will be aware, Lake County has experienced a considerable range of local emergency events in recent years, from wildfires that consumed more than 2/3 of our landmass, to severe low elevation snow and Atmospheric River storm events, to pervasive Tree Mortality, with 590,000 dead and dying trees documented within our jurisdictional boundaries as of 2022 (*United States Forest Service/USDA Flyover data*).

These events have demonstrated the import of ensuring appropriate data availability to support quality decision-making and targeted mitigation actions surrounding natural resource management, fuels management, forest management, and more.

We are deeply grateful to the United States Geological Survey (*USGS*) and California Department of Conservation for their recent support in gathering LiDAR data, and are excited to report the initial collection phase is complete.

To maximize the usability of this dataset, the County of Lake has interest in developing LiDAR derivatives.


Critical needs this data will support include the following:

- **Wildfire Planning:** vegetation management and fuel load reduction, evacuation planning, identification of communities at risk, home hardening and infrastructure hardening, biomass utilization planning, toxic runoff potential, community education and outreach;
- **Wildfire Response:** evacuation planning, fire behavior modeling of rate of spread based on canopy surface, structure type and topography, and communications;
- **Wildfire Recovery:** post-fire toxics and hazard abatement, Watershed Protection District emergency response, habitat and water supply protection, communications, habitat restoration and fire response mitigation/clean up.

We are aware the Coastal Conservancy is considering funding a suite of LiDAR derivatives for a larger territory, and Lake County would be very excited to join North Coast Resource Partnership, Coastal San Luis Resource Conservation District and any others in this project.

Thank you for your earnest consideration.

Sincerely,



Jessica Pyska

District 5 Supervisor

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