



**COUNTY OF LAKE
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

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February 7, 2017

Governor Jerry Brown
State Capitol, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Brown:

The Lake County Board of Supervisors supports Yolo County's efforts to identify state funding to replace the County Road 40 (CR40) low water bridge.

The CR 40 low water bridge off State Highway 16 in Yolo County provides vital emergency access to the northern Yolo County as well as the eastern mountainous reaches of Lake and Napa counties. The bridge is almost 100 years old and structurally deficient, preventing its use by fire agencies in the recent wildfires in 2015. This precipitated state fire agencies requesting the National Guard to install a temporary bridge to allow larger firefighting equipment to cross Cache Creek and access fire lines in the Bureau of Land Management's Cache Creek Natural Area. Without the bridge, fire equipment had to make a 50-mile detour that took hours and inhibited firefighting efforts.

Yolo County has advocated for bridge replacement since the bridge was closed in 2009 given the severe fire threat in the region, which has been exacerbated by years of drought. The terrain of the crossing and the surrounding valley is rugged and forested, further stressing the need for replacing and updating the existing infrastructure. However, funding has yet to be identified at the state level. The local Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Ukiah field office has been supportive of replacing the bridge and in 2014 entered into a Management Agreement with Yolo County to work together to seek a permanent bridge solution, but as of this date no federal BLM funds have been forthcoming.

We urge prompt action from state officials to invest in critical rural infrastructure, such as the CR 40 low water bridge, before the next fire or other natural disaster devastates our region in order to ensure future emergency response efforts are not impinged by insufficient and decrepit infrastructure.

We thank you for your attention to this critical matter.

Sincerely,

Jim Steele, Vice Chair