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October 2, 2018


Community Planning Assistance for Wildfires

**RE:     Land Use Planning Assistance to Reduce Community Wildfire Risks Grant – SUPPORT**


To Whom It May Concern

The Board of Supervisors of the County Lake offers its enthusiastic support for the Community Development Department of the County of Lake to receive assistance from Land Use Planning Assistance to Reduce Community Wildfire Grant.

Our community has been hit by consecutive years of unprecedented wildfires, culminating in the recent River and Ranch fires, known as the Mendocino Complex, which is the largest wildfire in California history.  These multiple wildfires have, in total, burned 60% of the Lake County's landmass and 5.5% of the County's housing.  That means that more than 1 in 20 homes in Lake County have been destroyed by wildfire since July of 2015.

Lake County needs to develop fire-safe communities that recognize and mitigate for fire danger in wildland-urban interface areas. If the County's Community Development Department is selected as a grant recipient, Community Planning Assistance for Wildfire (CPAW) will provide invaluable assistance in reducing wildfire risk through improved land use planning.

This grant would assist our Community Development Department by providing critically needed education and training for Planning staff, review of all planning documents and the development of professional recommendations for Lake County, and potentially professional one-on-one assistance and implementation support.

The County of Lake is in the process of changing our story from one of natural disaster and devastation to one of resilience, recovery, and hopefulness.  Receiving this grant will play a significant role in that evolution.

For these reasons we wholeheartedly support the Community Development Department of County of Lake as a recipient of the CPAW Land Use Planning Assistance to Reduce Community Wildfire Grant

Sincerely,



Jim Steele, Chair