

# CRITICAL PRIORITIES FOR LONG-TERM RECOVERY

## LAKE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

### Problem Statement

*Lake County has suffered an unparalleled 10 natural disasters since 2015, including repeated highly destructive wildfires and atmospheric river storms. With 60% of Lake County's land mass and 5.5% of our housing stock lost to fire, effects on our local economy have been devastating and pervasive.*

*Opportunities for recovery and growth are abundant, but we are severely under resourced. Lake County is home to Clear Lake, the largest natural lake wholly within California. Greater than 100 miles of shoreline, breathtaking sunsets and mountainous landscapes offer serenity, inspiration and outdoor adventure to residents and visitors, alike. However, entrenched local poverty and geographic isolation have severely hindered local development.*

*Next steps in our recovery require costly infrastructure improvements. We must address our local housing crisis and facilitate business expansion necessary to support vibrant communities. Thousands of quality sites cannot accommodate housing development, simply due to a lack of desperately needed water, sewer and transportation infrastructure. Only a fraction of our nearly 2,000 homes lost have been rebuilt, and residents of a county with a poverty rate nearly double the national average cannot reasonably be expected to bear the full cost of recovery.*

### PROJECT: Full Circle Effluent Pipeline

| Recovery Categories                         | Description   |
|---|---|
| <i>Housing<br/>Economic<br/>Development</i> | <p>Unlike many recently affected communities, Lake County lacks a comprehensive public sewer system, and this has complicated many aspects of disaster recovery. The way forward is known, but will require considerable financial support.</p> <p>In the early 2000s, we developed an innovative and award winning sanitation system on the North Shore of Clear Lake, transmitting treated wastewater via a 30-mile pipeline to the Geysers, supporting geothermal energy production by the Calpine Corporation.</p> <p>A subsequent phase in Southern Lake County, the Full Circle Project, was first envisioned in 2002. Recent wildfires particularly devastated housing supply in</p> |

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|  | <p>this region, leaving our South Shore with very limited wastewater storage and treatment capacity. When our Anderson Springs community was devastated by the Valley Fire of 2015, dozens of homes could not be rebuilt, due to changes in State building codes.</p> <p>Four of our most populous communities, Clearlake Riviera, Riviera Heights, Riviera West and Buckingham, similarly lack a complete public sewer system. If these extreme wildfire risk areas were to burn, thousands of County residents could face long-term displacement.</p> <p>Alternatively, with a public sewer system, local businesses could develop in support of our communities, providing jobs, enhancing tax revenues and putting Lake County on a viable path to thrive. In 2002, project costs were estimated at \$58,000,000. Adjusting for inflation at +38%, <b>\$80,000,000 is needed to complete this critical project.</b></p> |
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## PROJECT: Lampson Field Airport Development

| Recovery Category           | Description   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| <i>Economic Development</i> | <p>Lampson Field is a general aviation airport, located three miles south of the City of Lakeport. Virtually surrounded by private property, airport development has been severely limited by sewer infrastructure, airfield and runway capacity and safety and noise concerns. Even attending to basic operations and maintenance has presented challenges, and this cannot persist. As the sole public use airport in Lake County, Lampson Field is crucial to wildfire suppression and provision of emergent medical services.</p> <p>Funding is needed for critical enhancements to: accommodate larger planes; increase parking for transient planes; provide area for future firefighting efforts; begin site preparation for construction of future buildings and hangars; grade the County-owned property to the South of the runway; add aggregate base to minimize dust; and removal of an existing hanger, to straighten out the taxiway.</p> <p><b>As a starting point, the County requests \$2,000,000 to develop Lampson Field.</b></p> |



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### PROJECT: Opportunity Zones for Lampson Field Airport & South Main Street

| Recovery Categories         | Description   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| <i>Economic Development</i> | <p>Presently, the only Opportunity Zones in Lake County are within the boundaries of the City of Clearlake. Additional Opportunity Zones would offer tax advantages, inviting developers to invest in our low income areas.</p> <p>Specifically, we request designation of <b>two additional Opportunity Zones in the unincorporated area just outside the City limits of Lakeport.</b></p> |

### PROJECT: Reconstruct Fire Impacted Roads

| Recovery Categories                     | Description  |
|---|--|
| <i>Housing<br/>Economic Development</i> | <p>Four devastating fire seasons and repeated flooding severely damaged our County's road network.</p> <p>Heavy firefighting equipment, such as water tenders and tracked dozers, used County roads to access areas of each wildfire. Thousands of loaded dump trucks traversed County roads during months-long cleanup operations, completely destroying many roadways.</p> <p>Efforts to secure funding through standard Public Assistance processes have proven fruitless, as Federal policies prohibit "betterment" of facilities beyond pre-disaster conditions, which is inevitable if a road is reconstructed.</p> <p>Homes in neighborhoods throughout our County are being reconstructed, yet access roads have reverted in many cases back to dirt or gravel, and the County Road Department does not have the resources to reconstruct these roads.</p> <p><b>The County is requesting funding necessary to make critical repairs; our County Road Commissioner estimates \$50,000,000 in damage.</b></p> |



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### PROJECT: Secondary Access Roads

| Recovery Category | Description   |
|-------------------|---|
| <i>Housing</i>    | <p>To prevent future wildfire atrocities and to develop fire safe communities, secondary access roads are critically needed in a number of Lake County's populated, remote, rural, wooded areas in order to ensure adequate ingress and egress during evacuations and firefighting efforts.</p> <p>Lake County's Anderson Springs area was severely impacted by the Valley Fire of 2015, the 5<sup>th</sup> most destructive wildfire California's history, during which 181 of 200 total homes (90.5%) in this community were destroyed, and two people tragically died.</p> <p>This is one example of a community where immediate intervention is needed for public safety. <b>We request \$2,000,000 to create a secondary access road for this disaster-affected community.</b></p> |

### PROJECT: Augment HUD Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program

| Recovery Categories                           | Description   |
|---|---|
| <i>Housing</i><br><i>Economic Development</i> | <p>As noted in our Problem Statement, 5.5% of Lake County's housing stock has been consumed by wildfire since 2015. For reference, imagine 17,500 Washington, DC, housing units were lost in a period of dire fiscal crisis.</p> <p>Numerous lower income residents have been displaced, and rents exceed Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) rates by up to 14%. HUD's voucher allocations to Lake County have been fixed at 224 for more than 20 years. The number of persons living in poverty in Lake County is more than 170% of the national average. HUD funding for our minuscule program is not sufficient to support the County's cost to administer it.</p> <p>Lake County requests allocation of an additional 176 vouchers to our Section 8 program, not only to better serve citizens in great need but to render the program cost effective to administer. <b>The additional annual cost is an estimated \$200,000.</b></p> |

