This document is an extract of a larger publication.

civilgrandjury.org is a project of UnGovr.org, a US-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit dedicated to government transparency and public accountability.

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2018-2019 Lake County Civil Grand Jury

Name	Role	City
Ritzie Cracker		Clearlake
Susan de Bernardi		Kelseyville
Annette Gingles		Clearlake
Beverly Hill	Recording Secretary	Cobb
Maggie Magoolaghan		Kelseyville
Bill Magoolaghan		Kelseyville
Thomas Marquette		Lower lake
Robert Norgrove		Clearlake Oaks
Charlotte Oakes	Parliamentarian	Lakeport
David Peters		Cobb
Mark Rothrock	Foreman	Clearlake
Cheri Santos	Sergeant at Arms	Lucerne
Paula Schroy		Hidden Valley Lake
Carla Turchin		Hidden Valley Lake
Jane Weilbacher		Kelseyville

The Kelseyville Justice Court

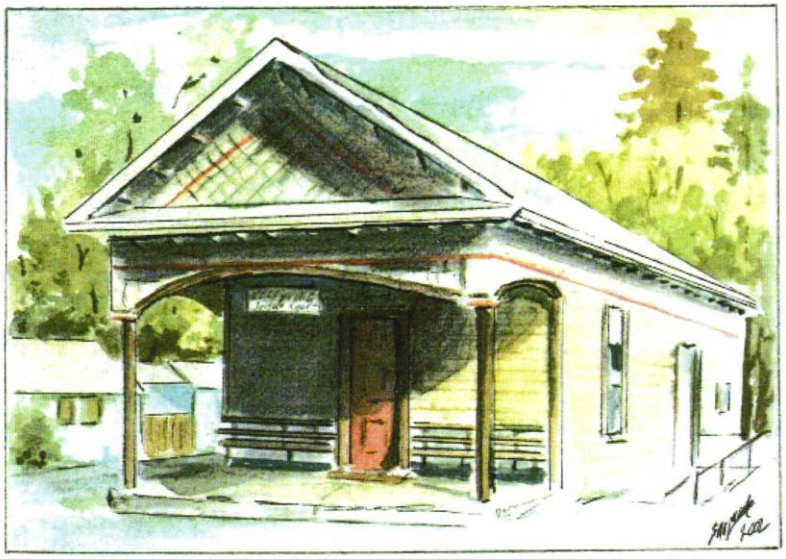


Photo of artwork done by local artist, J.P. Sarlande of Upper Lake.

Civil Grand Jury 2018/2019

County of Lake
P.O. Box 1078
Kelseyville, CA 95451

July 19, 2019
The Honorable Andrew S. Blum
Presiding Judge
Superior Court of California
County of Lake
255 Forbes Street Lakeport, CA 95453

Dear Judge Blum,

In accordance with California State Law, we respectfully submit the 2018-2019 Lake County Civil Grand Jury Report.

The Grand Jury began the year with trepidation due to some scathing responses received regarding the 2017/2018 Final Report. They chose to include them in the Continuity Report, and then proceed with the business of researching, educating, and informing our Lake County residents regarding their important concerns.

This Grand Jury initiated a new era with the publication of their first interim report entitled "HOW CAN WE SAFELY LAND-LAMPSON FIELD". The responses received may be viewed in full immediately following the report. The Grand Jury is very optimistic that this report will help Lampson Field gain new sources of funds for improvement.

Another first is the investigation into the Lake County Veterans' Services. The Jury was surprised to find that this important office had never been investigated and hope that the information provided will be of service to our Lake County Veterans and their families.

I must also mention the extraordinary efforts of the jurors who investigated the far-flung Lake Pillsbury Fire District. This was part of the investigation into the fire districts, but required many extra hours of dedicated travel and discussion.

I am so honored to have served as Foreman of the Jury and hope that this Final Report provides information and education to our fellow Lake County residents.

Respectfully Submitted

Mark Rothrock

Mark Rothrock
Foreman, 2018-2019 Lake County Civil Grand Jury

Civil Grand Jury 2018/2019

County of Lake

P.O. Box 1078

Kelseyville, CA 95451

Grand Jury Foreman's Letter to the Public

To:

The People of Lake County,

It has been my distinct honor and privilege to serve as the Foreman of your Lake County Civil Grand Jury. This Final Report is intended to inform and educate you regarding your County and the varied functions that are instrumental in providing the important services that you expect.

The Jury received and reviewed some 25 complaints from citizens both free and incarcerated. All of these were responded to whether they were the subject of an investigation, deemed not within our purview, or passed on to the 2019/2020 Grand Jury.

Having been on the Jury for two years, I can say that we have the best and most dedicated citizens who choose to work on the Grand Jury. Their tenacity in their investigations is astounding and determined. I can also say that they enjoy the effort and are strengthened in the assignments.

I have high expectations that this Final Report will improve our County and provide some needed service and instruction to our neighbors.

Respectfully,

Mark Rothrock

Mark Rothrock

Foreman, Lake County Civil Grand Jury 2018-2019

THE CIVIL GRAND JURY

Grand juries were established throughout California during the early years of statehood. As constituted today, the grand jury is a part of the judicial branch of government, an arm of the court.

Civil Grand Jurors do not sit in a box along the side of a wall in a courtroom, run by a Judge. They are not lectured to by the District Attorney who parades a number of witnesses before them. But rather, they will always be out "on their own" searching, researching, and investigating. They will be called upon, at times, to be an investigator, and at other times a reporter, but at all times a "watchdog" for the public and the Superior Court and will work with the County Counsel, or the District Attorney, as their primary legal resource, but they will be the ones in control.

They make their own decisions on what to investigate and how to conduct their investigations. They will go out in the field to do their jobs as the situation calls for. They could perform their duties in a variety of ways and at a variety of venues, a worksite, a private home, a prison, a hospital, a public agency's office, a city's council chambers, the County Counsel's offices or in their own Grand Jury Chambers where they will be interviewing witnesses and meeting in sub-committees, as they work on their cases.

A Civil Grand Jury is charged with a grave responsibility. The Civil Grand Jury serves as an ombudsperson for the citizens of Lake County. The jury may receive and investigate complaints by individuals or incarcerated persons regarding the actions or performances of county or public officials. The attention of the entire county is centered upon an active Civil Grand Jury, and its every act is a matter of public interest. Malevolent and unfaithful public servants are uneasy, while honest citizens and the conscientious public servants are reassured. Therefore, Grand Jury service calls for diligence, impartiality, courage and responsibility.

FUNCTIONS

The Civil Grand Jury is an investigative body created for the protection of society and the enforcement of the law. Although the responsibilities of a juror are many and diverse, the three predominant functions include:

CIVIL WATCHDOG RESPONSIBILITIES

This is the major function of present day grand jurors, and considerable effort is devoted to these responsibilities. The Grand Jury may examine all aspects of county and city government and special districts to ensure that the best interests of Lake county citizens are being served. The Grand Jury reviews and evaluates procedures, methods and systems utilized by county/city government to determine whether more efficient and economical programs may be employed. The Grand Jury is also authorized to:

- Inspect and audit books, records and financial expenditures to ensure that public funds are properly accounted for and legally spent.
- Inspect financial records of over 100 special districts in Lake County.
- Inquire into the conditions of jails and detention centers.
- Inquire into charges of willful misconduct in office by public officials or employees.

CITIZEN COMPLAINTS

As part of the civil function, the Grand Jury receives letters from citizens alleging mistreatment by officials, suspicions of misconduct, or governmental inefficiencies. Complaints received from citizens both free and incarcerated, are acknowledged and investigated for their validity. Such complaints are kept confidential. If the situation warrants, and corrective action is under the jurisdiction of the Grand Jury, appropriate action is taken.

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS

Occasionally and under certain circumstances, the Grand Jury holds hearings to determine whether evidence presented by the district attorney is of sufficient nature to warrant persons having to stand trial in court. A minimum of 12 jurors must vote for an indictment in any criminal proceeding. The types of cases presented to the grand jury by the district attorney usually include:

- Cases involving public officials, employees or police officers.
- Other cases the district attorney deems appropriate.

FINAL REPORT

At the end of its term the Grand Jury issues a Final Report, including any reports released during the year, documenting its investigations and recommendations. Copies of the Final Report are distributed to public officials, libraries, the news media, any interested parties and any entity that is the subject of one if the reports. According to law, the elected County officers must respond within sixty (60) days following the release of the Final Report. The Board of Supervisors and other public agency governing boards must respond within ninety (90) days.

The Grand Jury's Final Report summarizes the year's activities and contains its findings and recommendations for action and study. The new Grand Jury reviews the responses of the affected public agencies and the process of protection the public interest begins anew.

SUBMISSION OF COMPLAINTS

Although is it not required, complaints should first be addressed to those responsible for resolution unless it will be detrimental to the complainant. The Lake County Grand Jury will respond to all citizens submitting complaints. The complainants may not have further acknowledgement other than that their complaint was received. The Grand Jury cannot investigate disputes between private parties. A Complaint Form is available in the Appendix. Additional Complaint Forms may be requested from:

Lake County Civil Grand Jury
PO Box 1078
Kelseyville, CA 95451
(707) 279-8619

GRAND JURY SELECTION PROCESS

The court solicits applications for the Grand Jury by advertising in the local papers. An Application Form is available in the Appendix. Additional Applications may be obtained by mailing a letter with a self-addressed, stamped envelope to:

Grand Jury Coordinator
255 North Forbes Street
Fourth Floor
Lakeport, CA 95453.
(707) 263-2374 ext. 2282

Applications are also available at each Superior Court Clerk's office at the above address or at 7000 A South Center Drive, Clearlake.
Once applications have been screened and approved, they are randomly selected to be members of the Grand Jury.

QUALIFICATIONS FOR GRAND JURORS

Prospective Grand Jurors must possess the following qualifications (Penal Code 893):

1. Be a citizen of the United States, of the age of eighteen (18) years or older who shall have been a resident of the state and county for one year immediately prior to being selected.
2. Be in possession of his or her natural faculties, or ordinary intelligence, sound judgment, and fair character.
3. Possess sufficient knowledge of the English language.

A person is not legally authorized to serve if any of the following apply:

1. The person is serving as a trial juror in any court of this state.
2. The person has been discharged as a Grand Juror in any court of the state within one year.
3. The person has been convicted of malfeasance in office or any felony or other high crime.
4. The person is serving as an elected public officer.

Desirable qualifications for a Grand Juror include the following:

1. Have the time to make the necessary commitment. It is not uncommon to serve fifteen to twenty hours a week or more.
2. Be open-minded with concern for the positions and view of others.
3. Have the ability to work with others.
4. Have an interest in community affairs.
5. Possess investigative skills and an ability to write reports
6. Have a general knowledge of the functions, authorities and responsibilities of county and city government and other civil entities.
7. Does not pursue a personal agenda/vendetta against governmental concepts or officials.

Responses to Findings and Recommendations

The 2018-2019 Civil Grand Jury submits the following format to be used in responding to the reports. (PC §933.05)

Name of Report: _____
Finding or Recommendations #: ____

□ AGREE, has been implemented
□ AGREE, will be implemented within: _____
□ NEUTRAL, requires further analysis to be completed within _____
□ DISAGREE, will not be implemented. Explanation: _____

SERVING THOSE WHO SERVED

"...to care for him who shall have born the battle, and for his widow and his orphan."

~Abe Lincoln~

AN OVERVIEW OF THE LAKE COUNTY CALIFORNIA VETERANS' SERVICES

Summary:

The County Veterans Services Office (CVSO), is an integral part of our Veteran's access to their benefits. Due to concerns raised by county Veterans regarding their services and providers, the Grand Jury began an overview of this important office.

The CVSO is charged with providing aid to Veterans or their families in procuring their rightful veterans benefits (Exhibit 1).

The CVSO is not part of the Veterans Administration (VA) (Exhibit 2). This is a County Office located at 85 North Main St. Lakeport, directly across the street from the Lake County Courthouse. The CVSO is funded primarily by Lake County, but receives some funds from other State, Federal, and grant sources.

Methodology:

The Grand Jury interviewed county personnel who manage, work in, and are concerned with the operation of the CVSO. They spoke with Veterans around the

county regarding their experiences with the CVSO and the VA in general. Several committee members toured the Joy Madeiros Veterans Museum (Exhibit 3) and held interviews with their members and supporters. The Grand Jury researched important concerns in Veterans' periodicals, VA documentation, online sources, and CVSO budgets and resources.

Discussion:

The Grand Jury was surprised to find that the concept of a Veterans Services organization began during the Plymouth Pilgrim/Pequot Indian war of 1663. The Pilgrims passed a law stating that their war veterans would be supported by the Colony.

The American Veterans are part of a special club. They saw their duty and served their Country. Many like to relate stories of their time in service, but some do not. Some choose to honor their histories with museums and organizations, while others shun the past. Many are plagued by issues, such as PTSD, that only they can truly understand. It is most important that the concerns of these at-risk Veterans, are addressed promptly and correctly.

The Grand Jury found that the CVSO is prepared to serve any Veteran no matter their concern, but some of the Veterans contacted were unaware of the CVSO and their mission. The majority of the Veterans interviewed were very happy with the service provided by the CVSO, but some concerns were brought to the Jury. One Veteran interviewed had received some incorrect information from the CVSO, and another had not received a timely return call regarding his urgent concern.

Some concerns were noticed during the interviews and visits to the CVSO. Jurors found that it was rather difficult to find the office due to minimal signage. They noted the lack of privacy for personal interviews with the Veterans. The Jurors were also concerned that the grant funds for promotional materials, such as hats and cups, had been exhausted. Also of concern was the County mandated Friday closure of the CVSO. Jurors were concerned that an at-risk Veteran might not be able to receive crucial help when needed. In examining the CVSO County Website, it was noted that some information regarding hours of operation is incorrect and does not reflect the Friday closure of the office.

Jurors had an opportunity to visit the Wall of Honor in the lobby of the County Courthouse and were sad to see that the pictures and stories of our Veterans could be better organized and displayed.

The Veterans interviewed were very vocal about the VA Medical Services in the County. They related stories of days of travel to San Francisco for basic medical services such as Chest X-Rays and Blood Tests. The Jury would like to see the CVSO push for visits by a Mobile Unit to enhance the local Veterans services.

Lake County has a long history of supporting the many Veterans who chose to settle here after all of our wars and conflicts and we, of Lake County, should support those who served with all the effort we can muster.

"The willingness with which our young people are likely to serve in any war, no matter how justified, shall be directly proportional as to how they perceive the Veterans were treated and appreciated by their nation."

George Washington

Findings:

F-1: Lake County Veterans are often required to travel long distances for basic medical appointments.

F-2: The CVSO does not have enough funds to provide promotional items such as hats and cups.

F-3: The CVSO is closed on Fridays per County direction. The public is not aware that they may still make appointments for Fridays.

F-4: Some Lake County Veterans do not know of the CVSO and so are not seeking their deserved Veteran benefits.

F-5: Some calls to the CVSO received less than stellar reviews for their responses.

F-6: The CVSO office lacks privacy for personal interviews.

F-7: The Joy Madeiros Museum is a Lake County gem and has two years left on their leased location.

F-8: The Wall of Honor in the Courthouse Lobby is not being updated and organized.

F-9: The CVSO information provided on the County's web site does not reflect the hours of service correctly.

Recommendations:

R-1: The CVSO should promote the idea of frequent visits by a Mobile clinic to reduce Veteran travel for basic medical services. (F-1)

R-2: The CVSO should seek a grant to provide promotional materials and advertising to Lake County Veterans. (F-2)

R-3: The CVSO should remain open on Fridays. (F-3)

R-4: The CVSO should spend more time doing outreach to our local communities and organizations. (F-4)

R-5: The CVSO should ensure that all calls are answered promptly and with correct information. (F-5)

R-6: The County should consider providing a venue for a permanent Veterans Hall and Museum. (F-7)

R-7: County facilities should install improved signage for the CVSO building. (F-4)

R-8: The CVSO should ensure that the Wall of Honor is updated and organized. (F-8)

R-9: The CVSO should ensure that their web site information is correct. (F-9)

Request for Responses:

Pursuant to Penal Codes sec.933(c), the following response(s) are required:

- Lake County Board of Supervisors (R3,R6, R7) (90 days)

The following response(s) are invited:

- Lake County Facilities Department (R7) (60 days)
- Lake County Veterans Services Officer (R1, R2, R3, R4, R5, R8, R9) (60 days)

Exhibit 1

LAKE COUNTY VETERANS SERVICES OFFICER

Section 970 of the California Military and Veterans Code authorizes the Board of Supervisors of each county to appoint a VSO, provides that the VSO must be a veteran, and continues: "It shall be the duty of the county veterans service officer to administer the aid provided for in this chapter, to investigate all claims, applications, or requests for aid made pursuant to the terms of this chapter, and to perform any other veteran related services as requested by the county board of supervisors." As specified by state law, VSOs are veterans; they are trained in claims processing; they receive certifications from the VA and the CDVA.

LAKE COUNTY VETERANS SERVICES OFFICES

Main Lakeport Office

Phone: (707) 263-2384
Fax: (707) 262-1861
Hours: Monday - Friday 8am - 5pm
Map: 285 North Main Street Lakeport, CA 95453
Mail To: 255 North Forbes Street Lakeport, CA 95453
Email: Saul.Sanabria@lakecountyca.gov

Clearlake Office

Located at the Clearlake VA Outpatient Clinic

Phone: (707) 995-7233
Hours: Monday and Wednesday 8am - 12pm
and 1pm - 4pm
Map: 15145 Lakeshore Dr. Clearlake, CA 95422
Mail To: 255 North Forbes Street Lakeport, CA 95453

Exhibit 2

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)

VA History

"The United States has the most comprehensive system of assistance for Veterans of any nation in the world, with roots that can be traced back to 1636 when the Pilgrims of Plymouth Colony were at war with the Pequot Indians. The Pilgrims passed a law that stated that disabled soldiers would be supported by the colony."

The first consolidation of federal Veterans programs took place August 9, 1921 when Congress combined all World War 1 Veterans programs to create the Veterans Bureau. Public Health Service Veteran hospitals were transferred to the bureau, and an ambitious hospital program for World War 1 Veterans commenced.

The second consolidation of federal Veterans programs took place July 21, 1930 when President Herbert Hoover signed Executive Order 5398 and elevated the Veterans Bureau to a federal administration-creating the Veterans Administration-to "consolidate and coordinate Government activities affecting war veterans."

Following World War ll, there was a vast increase in the Veteran population, and Congress enacted large numbers of new benefits for war veterans-the most significant of which was the World War ll GI BILL, signed into law June 22, 1944. It is said the GI Bill had more impact on the American way of life than any law since the Homestead Act of 1862.

The VA Home Loan Guaranty Program is the only provision of the original GI Bill that is still in force. At that time, only a portion of Veterans were paid the maximum amount available. Less than one-fifth of the potential benefits were claimed, and only one out of 19 Veterans exhausted the full 52 weeks of checks.

In 1945, General Omar G. Bradley took the reins at VA and steered its transformation into a modern organization.

The VA was elevated to a cabinet-level executive department by President Ronald Reagan in October, 1988.

Veterans Health Administration (VHA)

VHA evolved from the first federal soldiers' facility established for Civil War Veterans of the Union Army. On March 3, 1865, President Lincoln signed a law to establish a national soldiers and sailors asylum. Renamed as the National Home for Disable Volunteer Soldiers in 1873.

But it was World War l that brought about the establishment of the second largest system of Veterans' hospitals. In 1918 Congress tasked two treasury agencies- the Bureau of War Risk Insurance and Public Health Service-with operating hospitals specifically for returning World War l Veterans.

By 1929, the federal system of national homes had grown to 11 institutions that spanned the country and accepted Veterans of all American wars.

Today's VHA-the largest of the three administrations that comprise VA-continues to meet Veteran's changing medical, surgical and quality-of- life needs with new and ongoing programs.

VHA operates one of the largest health care systems in the world. And provides education for medical, nursing and allied professional training.

National Cemetery Administration (NCA)

On July 17, 1862, Congress enacted legislation that authorized the president to purchase 'cemetery grounds' to be used as national cemeteries "for soldiers who shall have died in the service of the country."

The national cemetery system has evolved slowly since the initial period of great challenge associated with the Civil War. All honorably discharged Veterans became eligible for burial in 1873.

Today there are 135 cemeteries in all, with new cemeteries in development throughout the nation.

Exhibit 3

Veterans Resource Directory

American Legion 5002- 2nd Street Kelseyville, CA, (707) 279-1349, Roy Pearson, Principal, e-mail parkerhouse@mchsi.com

American Legion- 14770 Austin Road, Clearlake, CA 95422 (707) 994-6115

California Department of Veterans Affairs (Calvet) (800) 952-5626 (Toll free) www.calvet.ca.gov

Clearlake Outpatient Clinic -15145Lakeshore Drive Clearlake, CA 95422

Disabled American Veterans (DAV) contact American Red Cross 290 Main Street Lakeport (707) 262-7116 or VA Regional Office in Oakland at 1301 Clay Street Oakland, CA 94612-5209 (510)834-2921

Dept. of Veteran Affairs 15145 Lakeshore Drive Clearlake, CA (707) 995-7200

Joy Madeiros Museum –is located across from Round Table Pizza in the Safeway Shopping Center on 11th Street in Lakeport. The address is 857- 11th Street, Lakeport. The hours are Friday and Saturday 10 A.M to 2 P.M. This is a small but impressive display of military items over the years dedicated to the first Native American casualty of World War I- Joy Madeiros who resided in Upper Lake. Among other things, the museum contains uniforms of each branch of the service, flags, pictures, books, maps and more all the way back to the Civil War. It took several years to put together but it is well-done and worth seeing.

Lake-Mendocino Homeless Veterans Stand Down Events https://lakecounty.com>events

Lake County Veterans Service Office 285 N. Main Street Lakeport CA 95453 (707) 263-2384

Lake County Vet Connect Committee Chairman Frank Parker (707) 274-9512

Moose Lodge 2284 Clearlake Oaks, CA Serving complimentary dinners to honor our veterans on the 1st Monday of every month from 5 P.M. to 6 P.M.

Tango Mike – for more information, contact Ginny Craven at (707) 349-2838 or on-line at operationtangomike@mchsi.com The group provides 100 packages per month to soldiers in battle zones. They meet at the Umqua Bank located at 805 -11th Street in Lakeport every 3rd Thursday of the month.

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (USDVA) (800)827-1000 (Toll free) www.va.gov

United Veterans Council of Lake County VFW Post 2337, 3980 Veterans Way Clearlake, CA www.uvclc.org

Veterans of Foreign War (VFW) 3980 Lane Avenue, Clearlake, CA 95422

Veterans of Foreign Wars P.O. Box 744 Lakeport, CA 95453 (707) 263-1009

Veterans Suicide Prevention Hotline (800) 273-8255 Toll Free Veterans press 1

***The California Veterans Resource Book 7th edition is available on-line at www.calvet.ca.gov It provides a wide range of information including information about education, health care, disability benefits, employment, housing or emergency assistance. In addition, in person assistance on these subjects and more is available at the local branch of the Lake County Veterans Service Office in Lakeport. (See listing above)

***Please note: Every attempt has been made to include as many local and relevant veterans organizations as possible. If your organization was omitted in error, please accept our sincere apologies.

Lake County Veterans Statistics

	Lake County, California	
	Estimate	Margin of Error
Total:	50,967	+/-67
Veteran	5,458	+/-443
Nonveteran	45,509	+/-444
Male:	25,153	+/-110
Veteran	5,024	+/-422
Nonveteran	20,129	+/-439
18 to 34 years:	6,211	+/-181
Veteran	211	+/-128
Nonveteran	6,000	+/-194
35 to 54 years:	7,238	+/-124
Veteran	604	+/-154
Nonveteran	6,634	+/-203
55 to 64 years:	5,173	+/-82
Veteran	1,140	+/-212
Nonveteran	4,033	+/-204
65 to 74 years:	4,101	+/-84
Veteran	1,661	+/-222
Nonveteran	2,440	+/-220
75 years and over:	2,430	+/-114
Veteran	1,408	+/-187
Nonveteran	1,022	+/-199
Female:	25,814	+/-109
Veteran	434	+/-142
Nonveteran	25,380	+/-187
18 to 34 years:	5,407	+/-119
Veteran	19	+/-21
Nonveteran	5,388	+/-125
35 to 54 years:	7,739	+/-141
Veteran	111	+/-76
Nonveteran	7,628	+/-173
55 to 64 years:	5,638	+/-135
Veteran	228	+/-100
Nonveteran	5,410	+/-158
65 to 74 years:	4,117	+/-81
Veteran	10	+/-13
Nonveteran	4,107	+/-83
75 years and over:	2,913	+/-74
Veteran	66	+/-54
Nonveteran	2,847	+/-92
	Lake County, California	
	Estimate	Margin of Error

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2013-2017 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

IT'S RAINING CATS AND DOGS

Summary:

We cannot adopt our way out of Lake County's pet overpopulation. Despite the ceaseless efforts on the part of Lake County Animal Care & Control and Clearlake Animal Care & Control – augmented by numerous animal welfare non-profits and resolute individuals – to facilitate adoption and rehoming of unwanted pets, many pet owners still do not spay and neuter their dogs and cats. Their pets continue to breed and contribute to the serious pet overpopulation problem in Lake County, especially by harder-to-place adult cats and dogs. Overpopulation places stress on local County and city governments and raises public safety concerns. The costs of these sterilizing operations in most veterinary offices is not within the budgets of many pet owners, thus the availability of additional lower-cost or no-cost options would take a major step in reducing overpopulation and its concurrent complications.

Discussion:

The national statistics are sobering. The ASPCA estimates that approximately 6.5 million companion animals enter U.S. animal shelters nationwide every year. Of those, approximately 3.3 million are dogs and 3.2 million are cats. Only about 10% of the dogs are estimated to have been spayed or neutered. About 25%-30% are purebred. Approximately 3.2 million shelter animals are adopted each year (1.6 million dogs and 1.6 million cats). About 710,000 animals who enter shelters as strays are returned to their owners. Of those, 620,000 are dogs and only 90,000 are cats. Approximately 1.5 million shelter animals are euthanized annually (670,000 dogs and 860,000 cats).

The Humane Society of the US has estimated that 25-30% of owned pets are not spayed or neutered. They further estimate that one female dog (breeding twice a year) and her offspring can theoretically produce c. 60,000 dogs and one unspayed cat (breeding three times a year) and her offspring can produce c. 420,000 kittens in seven years.

Pet "overpopulation" has two primary causes: 1) Allowing cats and dogs to reproduce freely with little chance of finding the offspring good homes, and 2) Pets being relinquished by owners who can no longer keep them or who no longer want them. The most common reasons dogs are unwanted include problematic behaviors (especially aggression), large growth, and medical issues the owners cannot afford to treat. Surplus and unwanted animals are neglected, abused, and/or dumped and frequently become the responsibility of the animal control agencies and their shelters. The taxpayers foot the bill for the problems that are exacerbated by this overpopulation, including sheltering strays and investigating dog bite incidents, injured animals, and animal cruelty. Animal control staff have to capture and transport animals; clean, feed, house, and socialize them; arrange for medical care, and try to find permanent homes for those deemed adoptable. Those that are not adoptable have to be euthanized, which takes an emotional toll on the animal control and veterinary clinic staffs. All of this care costs municipal and county governments money, so animal control services must be prioritized.

The responsibility for dog overpopulation is shared by irresponsible or careless pet owners, backyard breeders, and puppy mills. The reasons that owners allow their dogs to breed are numerous and include ignorance, financial constraints, macho attitudes, and the desire for their children to experience the "miracle of birth." Sometimes, owners consider a dog "special" and want a puppy from their "special" dog.

Backyard breeders may breed their dogs to earn money by selling the puppies. One issue is that they likely know little about genetics and temperament and produce dogs with health and behavioral problems, thereby expanding the shelter overpopulation crisis.

Puppy mills are the seedy underbelly of the pet marketplace. They thrive because of the high demand for purebred puppies, again with unconcern for genetic defects and disposition. These pups are typically distributed by brokers and pet stores. As is well known, the conditions characteristic of these mills are often squalid.

Lake County

Neither shelter in Lake County currently has a full-time veterinarian. This deficit negatively affects the availability of low-cost surgeries for County residents' pets. Attracting a young graduate veterinarian to a poor, rural county is a challenge and complicates recruitment.

Lake County Animal Care & Control posts the following on its website:

"All public Veterinary services will be temporarily cancelled as of July 1st. 2018. This includes all low income spay/neuter services, the community cat program, and our weekly vaccine clinic. Once we have a new Vet on board, we will resume services as usual."

The County shelter relies on two veterinarians who work one day per week to spay and neuter dogs and cats that are being adopted. One of those veterinarians also volunteers at the Clearlake shelter to provide medical care, but dogs and cats adopted from there are not being sterilized for lack of a veterinarian with that focus.

Attached as Exhibit A are the statistics for the Clearlake shelter, divided into two three-month periods: 9/1/18-12/31/18 and 1/1/19-3/31/19. Recognizing that the dog kennels are squeezed into the Department of Public Works garage and small rear yard, and cat cages are precious few, the Grand Jury commends the staff for putting much energy into encouraging non-profits to rescue as many animals as possible. The stats show that strays are a major issue and that adoptions are few, but rescues are notably increasing.

Attached as Exhibit B are the three-year statistics for the Lakeport shelter, which also has jurisdiction over the city of Lakeport. What is clear is that the total number of animals passing through the shelter during that period is startling high, especially cats (3339 dogs and 5562 cats). The total number of all animals received annually averages about 3191 over the three-year period – including an average of 1113 dogs and 1854 cats - annually. The good news is that the "live release rate" averages 74% for those three years. The adoption rate for dogs averages 48% and for cats averages 54%, while redemption rates average 39% for dogs but only 5% for cats. However, euthanasia rates for cats average 34%, while for dogs averages 15%. Sadly, these figures reflect that 511 dogs were euthanized over the three-year period – and 1,946 cats.

There are not enough homes in Lake County to accommodate this volume of unwanted dogs and cats. Affordable spay-neuter services are therefore critically important.

Spay-Neuter Ordinances:

Ordinances alone do not solve the problem of overpopulation. Lake County, Lakeport, and Clearlake have each adopted the very same Ordinance:

The Lake County Spay/ Neuter Ordinance reads:

"4-17 No person shall own, harbor, or keep within the unincorporated area of this County, a dog or cat over the age of four (4) months, which has not been spayed or neutered unless the dog or cat is exempted from the provisions of this section pursuant to Section 4-17.3.

17.2 Any person intentionally providing care or sustenance for a dog or cat shall be deemed the owner of such dog or cat and shall comply with Section 4-17.1.

17.3 The following animals are exempt from the provisions of Section 4-17.1

(a) Dogs documented as having been appropriately trained and actually being used by public law enforcement agencies for law enforcement activities, or such dogs designated as breeding stock by an appropriate agency or organization approved by the Director of Animal Care & Control after consultation with knowledgeable professionals;

(b) Dogs having been appropriately trained and actually being used as a service dog, such as a guide dog, hearing dog, assistance dog, seizure alert dog, or social/therapy dog, or such dogs designated as breeding stock by an appropriate agency or organization approved by the Director of Animal Care & Control after consultation with knowledgeable professionals;

(c) Dogs documented as having been appropriately trained and actually being used by search and rescue agencies for search and rescue activities, or such dogs designated as breeding stock by an appropriate agency or organization approved by the Director of Animal Care & Control after consultation with knowledgeable professionals;

(d) Dogs or cats certified by a licensed veterinarian as having a health reason for not being

spayed or neutered;
(e) Dogs which are appropriately trained and actually being used for herding of other animals, or as livestock guardian dogs, hunting dogs, or such dogs designated as breeding stock by an appropriate agency or organization approved by the Director of Animal Care & Control after consultation with knowledgeable professionals;
(f) Dogs or cats boarded in a licensed kennel or a business, which boards such animals for professional training or resale;
(g) Dogs or cats which are registered with the American Kennel Club, the Cat Fancier Association or other recognized registry or trained or kept for the purpose of show, field trials, or agility trials."
The provisions of this are affective as of June 1, 2006."
The Lakeport City Spay/Neuter Ordinance (6.24.090--6.24.110) and Clearlake City Spay/ Neuter Ordinance (7-10.1--7.10.3) are exactly the same as the County's Ordinance.

The enforceability of these ordinances is unclear, however. While a neutered male dog is usually evident, a female dog requires an examination, and male and female cats may also require close inspection or an exam. Residents who "follow the law" generally are not the cause of pet overpopulation.

The SPCA of Lake County, long a source of low-cost vaccinations and surgeries, remains focused on making these services affordable. Attached as Exhibit C is their application and fee schedule. In addition, an impressive number of in-county and area non-profits have stepped into the breach in an attempt to help vaccinate and sterilize Lake County's pets, either free with donated vouchers or at very low cost, and who have taken pets to other counties to improve their adoptability. Attached as Exhibit D is a list of these organizations and county facilities. There is always a waiting list for the marathon weekend surgery and vaccination clinics organized by Orphan Dog, so many owners clearly will respond when they are informed of their availability.

Advisory Committees:

The current state of the two shelter "advisory committees" is unclear. The County's Animal Control Advisory Board was established in 2002. The purpose of this board is " to review and evaluate animal control needs, advise the Board of Supervisors and Animal Control Director, provide liaison between the community, Board of Supervisors and Animal Control Director, review department budget, and submit an annual report to the Board of Supervisors." As of December, 2018, four of the seven positions were vacant, and the County website currently lists vacancies. Clearlake's Animal Control Ad Hoc Committee was created in early 2018 with the initial purpose of helping Animal Control reduce the number of stray dogs. After further refinement, the group was intended to help "disseminate information regarding animal control-related challenges and planned improvements to its shelter facilities" by encouraging citizen interaction. Monthly meetings were held early on, but not so far this year.

Findings

F-1: There are only two public animal shelters in Lake County, and they are usually filled to capacity, if not over-crowded.

F-2: The shelters need additional veterinarians to provide sterilization services at affordable prices.

F-3: The "community cat" and pitbull surgery programs provided at the County shelter were helpful in sterilizing these two difficult groups.

F-5: Both in-county and regional non-profit animal welfare groups and individuals raise and donate substantial funds and work diligently to augment the number of Lake County pets that can be sterilized. (Exhibit D)

F-6: Facebook postings regarding loose and lost dogs – and dogs needing fostering or rescuing - have been especially effective in Clearlake.

F-7: The shelter "advisory committees" can be a useful tool in attracting community members to help reduce the number of unwanted pets by getting involved with the shelter and volunteering during spay-neuter events.

Recommendations:

R-1: If the cost of a full-time veterinarian exceeds the County and Clearlake budgets, the two shelters should consider sharing a veterinarian to provide spay-neuter surgeries, for the public as well as for the shelter animals. (F-1, F-2)

R-2: The two shelters should consider contacting UC-Davis School of Veterinary Medicine's Shelter Medicine Program to explore whether a senior Resident or Fellow would be able to be assigned to Lake County for specific periods of time under the auspices of one of the two current part-time veterinarians. (F-1, F-2, F-3)

R-3: The County should recognize and commend publically the non-profits that expend so much time, energy, and resources on behalf of Lake County's dogs and cats, perhaps with a special "Appreciation Day." (F-4)

R-4: The County shelter should make every effort to restore the services for feral cats and pitbulls that were once available. (F-3)

R-5: The Clearlake shelter should continue with its application for grant funding to purchase of a mobile spay-neuter van to supplement the vaccination and surgery clinics available to Clearlake residents' pets. (F-1, F-2, F-3)

R-6: The County shelter's animals would benefit from a more robust Facebook presence, with photos of dogs outside of their cages interacting with staff, along with appeals to adopt. (F-5)

R-7: To the extent that the two shelter's advisory committees have become disengaged, animal control staff should encourage participation and regular meetings. (F-6)

Request for Responses:

Pursuant to Penal Codes sec.933(c), the following response(s) are required:

- Lake County Board of Supervisors (R3,R4) (90 days)

The following response(s) are invited:

- Lake County Animal Care and Control (R1, R12, R6, R7) (60 days)
- Clearlake Animal Care and Control through the Clearlake Police Department (R1, R2, R5, R6, R7) (60 days)
- Clearlake City Manager (R1, R2, R5, R6, R7) (60 days)

Picked up by Chief Andrew White of Clearlake.
Super friendly, un-altered males, no collars, no microchips.
They hopped right in and enjoyed their ride to the shelter.

Exhibit A

CLEARLAKE ANIMAL CONTROL CASE STUDIES					CLEARLAKE ANIMAL CONTROL CASE STUDIES			
9/1/2018 TO 12/31/2018					1/1/2019 TO 3/31/2019			
CAT	ANIMALS IN SHELTER	3			CAT	ANIMALS IN SHELTER	3	
	INTAKES:					**INTAKES:**		
	DOA	1				DOA	0	
	SEIZED	4				SEIZED	0	
	STRAY	28				STRAY	17	
	NON STRAY IMPOUND	0				NON STRAY IMPOUND	1	
	STRAY NON LOST FOUND	0				STRAY NON LOST FOUND	1	
	STRAY NON-WEB	3				STRAY NON-WEB	0	
	UNWANTED	2				UNWANTED	0	
	INTAKE TOTAL	38				INTAKE TOTAL	19	
	DISPOSITIONS					**DISPOSITIONS**		AVG. STAY DAYS
	ADOPTED	-4	AVG. STAY DAYS			ADOPTED	-1	245
	DECEASED	-18	83.5			DECEASED	-12	2
	ESCAPED	0	1.77			ESCAPED	-1	7
	EUTHANIZED (HEALTH)	-5	3.8			EUTHANIZED (HEALTH)	-4	1
	FOSTER-ADOPT	0				FOSTER-ADOPT	-1	10
	EUTHANIZED	-1	1			EUTHANIZED	0	0
	RESCUED	-10	18.1			RESCUED	-3	59.66
	DISPOSITIONS TOTAL	-38				DISPOSITIONS TOTAL	-22	
	12/31/2018					12/31/2018		
	ANIMALS IN SHELTER	3				ANIMALS IN SHELTER	0	
CLEARLAKE ANIMAL CONTROL CASE STUDIES					CLEARLAKE ANIMAL CONTROL CASE STUDIES			
9/1/2018 TO 12/31/2018					9/1/2018 TO 12/31/2018			
DOG	ANIMALS IN SHELTER	8			DOG	ANIMALS IN SHELTER	8	
	INTAKES:					**INTAKES:**		
	EUTHENASIA REQUEST	0				EUTHENASIA REQUEST	1	
	CASE SEIZURE	1				CASE SEIZURE	0	
	CLINIC VISIT	2				CLINIC VISIT	0	
	NON-STRAY IMPOUND	18				NON-STRAY IMPOUND	24	
	QUARANTINE	4				QUARANTINE	3	
	RETURNED ADOPTION	1				RETURNED ADOPTION	1	
	SEIZED	7				SEIZED	5	
	STRAY	85				STRAY	84	
	STRAY NON-WEB	10				STRAY NON-WEB	0	
	STRAY NON-LOST-FOUND	2				STRAY NON-LOST-FOUND	4	
	UNWANTED	3				UNWANTED	1	
	INTAKE TOTAL	133				INTAKE TOTAL	123	
	DISPOSITIONS		AVG. STAY DAYS			**DISPOSITIONS**		AVG. STAY DAYS
	ADOPTED	-14	25.14			ADOPTED	-9	101.77
	CITIZEN TO OWNER RETURN	-1	1			CITIZEN TO OWNER RETURN	-1	2
	DECEASED	-10	1.9			DECEASED	-7	1.28
	EUTHANIZED (OWNER REQ)	-2	6			EUTHANIZED (OWNER REQ)	-3	5
	EUTHANIZED (HEALTH)	-10	7.7			EUTHANIZED (HEALTH)	-4	52.25
	EUTHANIZED	-11	24.09			EUTHANIZED	-4	24
	FOSTER ADOPT	0	0			FOSTER ADOPT	-7	37
	RESCUED	-32	31.37			RESCUED	-69	17.95
	ESCAPED	0	0			ESCAPED	-1	8
	RETURN TO OWNER	-34	4			RETURN TO OWNER	-29	5.93
	DISPOSITIONS TOTAL	-114				DISPOSITIONS TOTAL	-134	
	ANIMALS IN SHELTER	27				ANIMALS IN SHELTER	16	
	OTHER SPECIES					**OTHER SPECIES**		
	INTAKES	10				INTAKES	2	
	DISPOSITION		9 WILD 1 PIG			**DISPOSITION**		1 WILD 1 PIG
	DECEASESD	-9	AVG. STAY DAYS			DECEASESD	-1	AVG. STAY DAYS
	ANIMALS IN SHELTER	1	1.22			**ANIMALS IN SHELTER**	1	1.22

Exhibit B

LAKEPORT CITY

	Dogs	Cats	Total
17/18	82	157	239
16/17	137	150	287
14/15	86	132	218
13/14	79	120	199
12/13	42	50	92

15/16 stats (WITH COMMUNITY CAT PROGRAM)

	Dogs	Cats	Other	Total
Adopt	487	910	28	1425
Redeemed	445	159	183	787
Euthanized	162	569	5	736
Other	12	25	10	47
	1106	1663	226	2995

STATISTICS

	Dogs	Cats	Other
Adopt	44%	55%	12%
Redeemed	40%	10%	81%
Euthanized	15%	34%	2%
Other	1%	1%	5%
	100%	100%	100%

LIVE RELEASE RATE OF 75%

16/17 stats (WITH COMMUNITY CAT PROGRAM)

	Dogs	Cats	Other	Total
Adopt	561	1185	50	1796
Redeemed	379	82	121	582
Euthanized	170	718	11	899
Other	8	27	2	37
	1118	2012	184	3314

STATISTICS

	Dogs	Cats	Other
Adopt	50%	59%	27%
Redeemed	34%	4%	66%
Euthanized	15%	36%	6%
Other	1%	1%	1%
	100%	100%	100%

LIVE RELEASE RATE OF 73%

17/18 stats (WITH COMMUNITY CAT PROGRAM)

	Dogs	Cats	Other	Total
Adopt	559	1274	84	1917
Redeemed	376	40	57	473
Euthanized	179	659	2	840
Other	1	14	20	35
	1115	1987	163	3265

STATISTICS

	Dogs	Cats	Other
Adopted	50%	64%	52%
Redeemed	34%	2%	35%
Euthanized	16%	33%	1%
Other	0%	1%	12%
	100%	100%	100%

LIVE RELEASE RATE OF 74%

Lake County Bite Statistics

- Lake County recorded 136 animal bite reports in 17/18

- The top 3 biting dog breeds are as follows:

*Pitbulls	26%
*Chihuahuas	11%
*Shepherds	6%
*Stray Unknown Dogs	17%

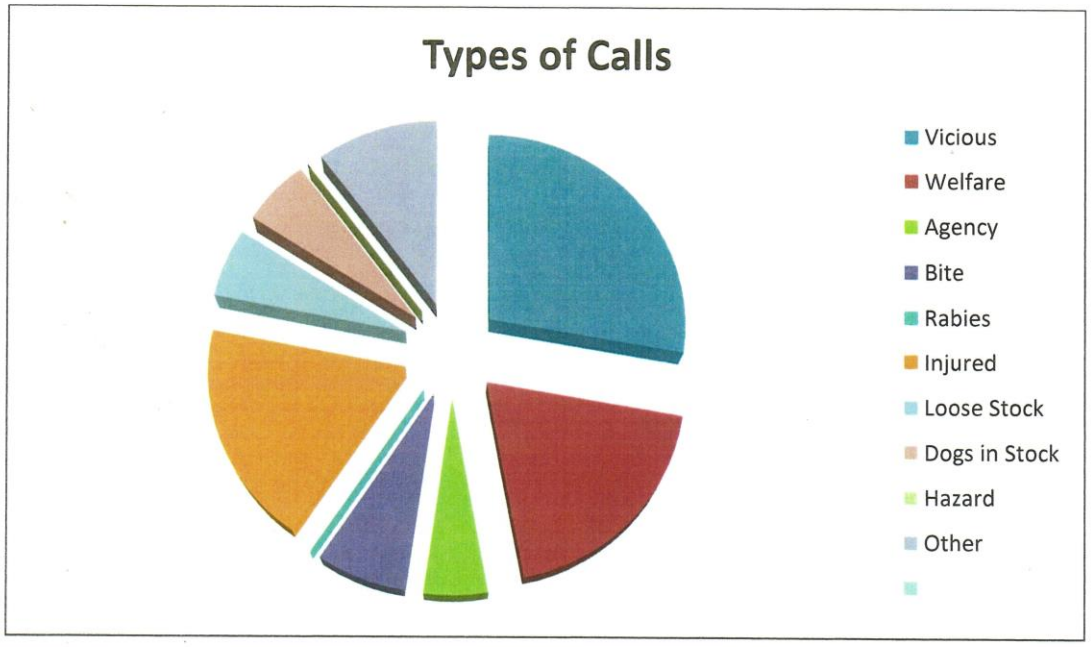
*27 cat bites reported

- 19% of all reported cat bites had a current rabies vaccine

- 25% of all reported dog bites had a current rabies vaccine

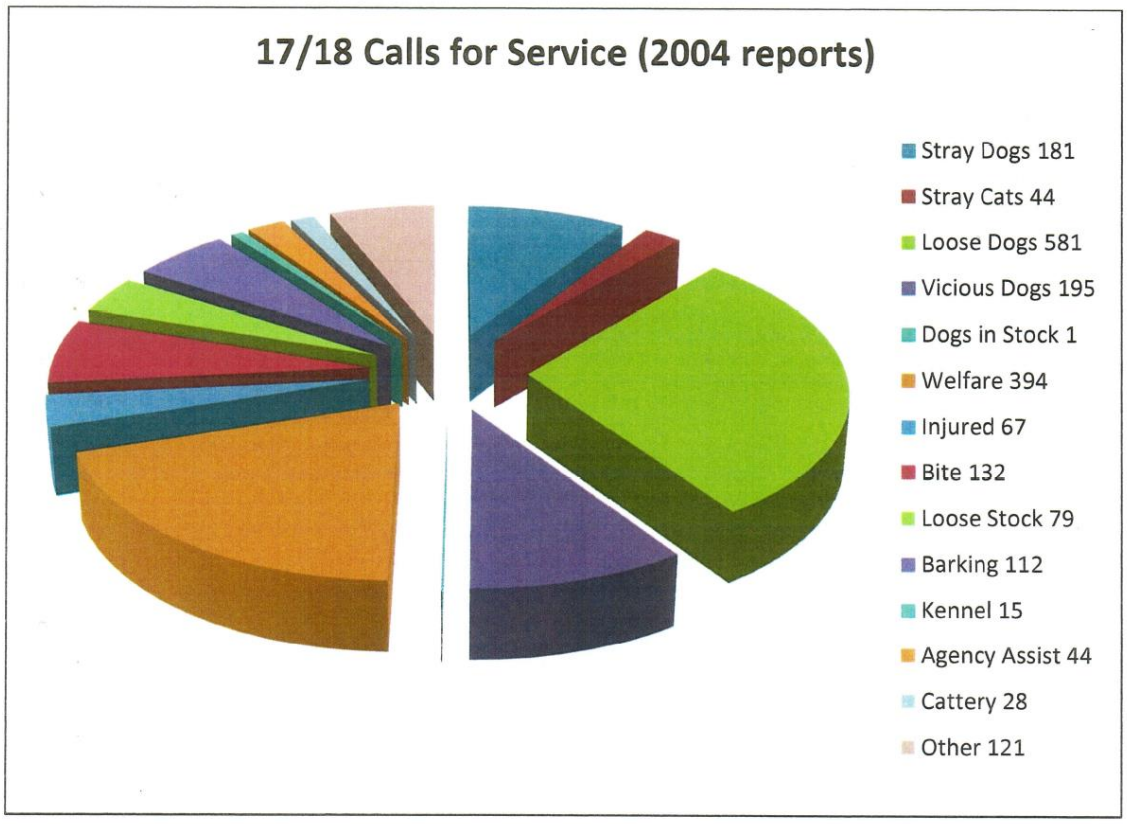
**Rabies vaccines are readily available to all community members at a low cost ($8) through our weekly vaccination clinic.*

AFTER HOURS EMERGENCIES 17/18



Loose Vicious Dogs	43 calls	= 28%
Welfare Checks	30 calls	= 19%
Injured Animals	29 calls	= 19%
Other	16 calls	= 10%
Bites	11 calls	= 7%
Loose Stock	9 calls	= 6%
Dogs in Stock	9 calls	= 6%
Agency Assists	8 calls	= 5%

Emergencies and neglect happen at all hours of the day and night!


17/18 Calls for Service (2004 reports)
Stray Dogs 181
Stray Cats 44
Loose Dogs 581
Vicious Dogs 195
Dogs in Stock 1
Welfare 394
Injured 67
Bite 132
Loose Stock 79
Barking 112
Kennel 15
Agency Assist 44
Cattery 28
Other 121

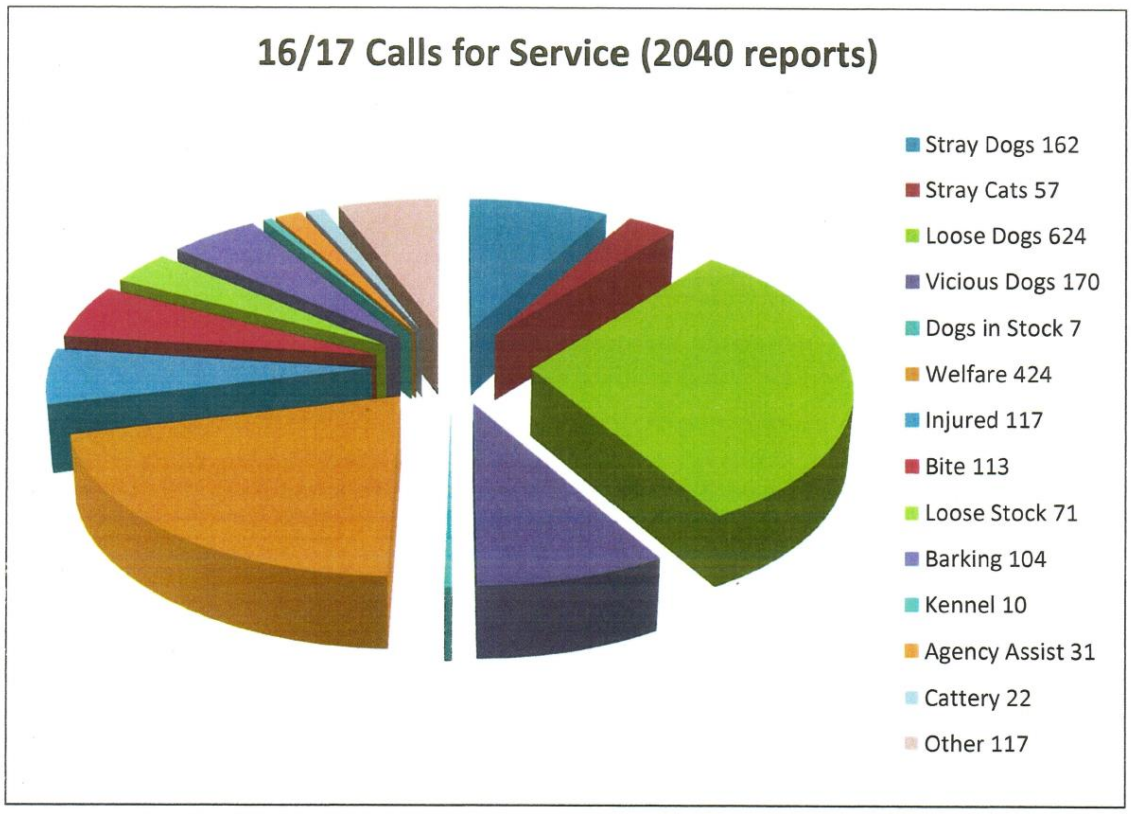

16/17 Calls for Service (2040 reports)
Stray Dogs 162
Stray Cats 57
Loose Dogs 624
Vicious Dogs 170
Dogs in Stock 7
Welfare 424
Injured 117
Bite 113
Loose Stock 71
Barking 104
Kennel 10
Agency Assist 31
Cattery 22
Other 117

Exhibit C

SPCA of Lake County

SPAY/NEUTER CLINIC APPLICATION

SPCA of Lake County
8025 Highway 29
Kelseyville, CA 95451

Mailing Address:
SPCA of Lake County
P.O. Box 784
Clearlake, CA 95422

707-279-1400 (call/text)
Email: spcaoflakecounty@aol.com

Pet Information:

Name:_____
Age:_____
Weight:_____lbs

□ Dog □ Cat
□ Male □ Female

Pregnant? Y/N Don't know

Breed:_____
_____

Description (color/long or short hair)
_____
_____
_____

Health Concerns/Allergies (include any medications):
_____
_____
_____
_____

Pet Owner Information:

Name: _____
Physical Address: _____
_____
Mailing Address: _____
_____
Phone: _____Alternate: _____
Email:_____
Voucher # (if applicable): _____(JARR/Animal Coalition)
Are you applying for more than one pet? □Yes □No
(Please use separate application for each pet.)

If you miss your appointment, there will be a rescheduling fee. Dogs must be in carriers or on leash. Cats must be in carriers. One animal per carrier – No exceptions. Must be current on rabies vaccines.

Other services requested. See fee schedule.
□Rabies □DHPP □FVRCP □Microchip

I understand that I am giving my consent for my cat or dog to be spayed/neutered and vaccinated for rabies, if needed. I understand that my pet must be healthy and old enough to receive these services in the opinion of the examining veterinarian.

Owner's signature:_____
Date:_____

Mail or email completed application to the above address.

Fee Schedule

Feline Spay -$120 Feline Neuter-$80
Canine Neuter -$100
Canine Spay 25#<$150
Canine Spay 50#<$170
Canine Spay 50#>$190
Feline Rabies Purvax-$20
FVRCP-$20
Canine Rabies-$15
DHPP-$20
Microchip-$20

For SPCA use only

Date Received:	Surgery Date:	Payment complete: Paypal Cash Check
Date Contacted:	Animal ID #:	
Paypal invoice:		Voucher Billed

Exhibit D: Please See Exhibit C Lake County Animals Report

LAKE COUNTY ANIMALS:

The *Other Residents* Needing Care During Disasters

SUMMARY

In response to disasters such as the multiple record-setting wildfires that have plagued Lake County in recent years, Lake County Animal Care and Control (LCACC) has created a shelter-staff and volunteer group specifically trained to provide the proper care and shelter for the pets and livestock of evacuated residents - Lake Evacuation & Animal Protection (LEAP). During the mass confusion that reigns when Voluntary or Mandatory evacuation orders are given, the many residents with household and/or farm animals may be hesitant to leave because they do not have the means to move their animals and/or they do not know where to go with them. While several evacuation centers in the County now accept cats and dogs in crates, what about the large animals such as horses, goats, pigs, llamas, emus–and even camels? **[Exhibit A.]** All of these are the *Other Residents* of Lake County whose welfare during disasters becomes LEAP's responsibility.

The goal of this report is to recognize and publicize the dedication of the LEAP staff and volunteers who spring into action at times of maximum threat in order to either remove animals from harm's way or to provide food, water, and veterinary care to the animals left behind. As well, the recommended disaster preparation for pet owners is emphasized, in the hope that knowledge and advance planning will reduce the panic attending sudden dislocation and thus ultimately enhance the safety of all Lake County animals.

METHODOLOGY

The Grand Jury interviewed the individuals responsible for the inception, development, and improvement of LEAP's training and procedures, interviewed two of the County veterinarians who volunteer during disasters, and attended a LEAP orientation session for potential volunteers. The Grand Jury also reviewed documents and articles pertaining to LEAP specifically and to pet disaster preparedness generally.

BACKGROUND

Hurricane Katrina affecting the Gulf Coast in 2005 brought the fate of animals during disasters into broad public view, with its photographs of dogs huddled on rooftops or swimming desperately toward rescuers in canoes and of fields of drowned livestock. The realization that many owners would refuse to leave home without their pets was subsequently integrated into relief agencies' formal disaster planning.

DISCUSSION

LEAP was conceived of and formed in 2012, and its literal "trial by fire" occurred during the Wye fire that burned east of Clearlake Oaks that August. The learning curve was steep, and its policies and procedures have been continuously refined, through both frequent disaster experience and comprehensive training. Volunteers must complete both LCACC and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) training classes in the Incident Command System (ICS) and National Incident Management System (NIMS), as well as a disaster preparedness course given by humane organizations such as North Valley Animal Disaster Group in Butte County, so prominent during the Camp fire.

LEAP's mission is:

> …to offer assistance with the evacuation, care, and shelter of animals during times of disaster. To lend aid to Lake County governmental agencies in safely and cooperatively evacuating and caring for the needs of animals during a disaster. To provide shelter, feed, and first aid to animals in need. To properly train our personnel and volunteers as requested by local emergency responders so that we work in a safe and cooperative manner during an event. To educate the community on how to proactively prepare for care of animals during a disaster.

LEAP is activated by a call from the Sheriff's Office to the LCACC Director when Mandatory evacuations are announced. The Director then contacts the shelter staff and the Volunteer Coordinator, who then contacts the other volunteers. LEAP members work under the liability umbrella of the County. There are three "stations" with specific responsibilities for the office, the field, and the equipment (trucks and trailers, crates, etc.). [LEAP's brochure is attached hereto as **[Exhibit B.]**

One sub-group of LEAP, based in the LCACC office, is responsible for responding to and triaging the hundreds of calls from stressed pet owners needing care for their animals or seeking information about their evacuated animals' whereabouts. Five or six phone lines are still not enough to prevent wait times. Close to 1,000 calls were documented during the Mendo Complex fires in 2018. Two staff are responsible for entering call data onto a spreadsheet, updated daily, and each communication from owners and first responders regarding a specific address is noted. Those working in the field transmit data to the office via iPads, personal devices, and radios.

Working 24/7 during the early days of a disaster, the shelter staff also cares for any evacuated animals received there. Some of the overflow dogs and cats can be housed at the SPCA near Kit's Corner. During the Mendo Complex fire, the American Society for

the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) set up shop there in its own special trailer and worked alongside SPCA Board members and volunteers. LEAP maintains a list of ranches and horse stables that can accommodate livestock, but, depending on the scope of the disaster, and especially when portions of the county are inaccessible, many more boarding facilities are needed.

The second LEAP sub-group, under the supervision of the CalFire Incident Commander (structured according to the Office of Emergency Services (OES) protocol), goes out into the field with the LEAP trailer and sets up a base camp or animal staging area where they can offer aid and some kenneling in their trailer to animals arriving there, including initial veterinary assessment and emergency care. The staging manager keeps track of all incoming and outgoing animals, including their temporary locations, which assist with reuniting the animals with their owners as soon as possible. Animals with more serious medical needs are then sent to available veterinary hospitals, both in and outside of the County. At the moment, LEAP does not have its own medical van that would enable them to treat more injured animals closer to their homes.

This field group has more hands-on training than the group in the office. Outfitted with fire-resistant clothing and a radio, they work in teams of two when traveling, usually with a CalFire escort, into the evacuated areas in Animal Control trucks. They either transport animals out of the area or provide food and water for those animals sheltering in place at least every three days. LEAP recently acquired a 525-gal "water buffalo" with a water pump that enables the teams to more easily replenish water on flat ground or up hills. Each animal that is picked up is given an impound sheet and numbered tag specific to it, and a tag is left on the house door indicating what was removed and where the animal(s) went. If a field pair is not in radio contact with the office or CalFire, it cannot go into hazardous areas, as the goal is to keep all parties safe and in communication. They use radios provided by LCACC or CalFire. Some LEAP volunteers are licensed ham radio operators, but the radios are not utilized during emergencies. The field group does not work at night. Every morning, they participate in an orientation briefing with CalFire before starting their rounds. [LEAP handouts on the Valley, Clayton, and Mendo Complex files are attached hereto as **Exhibit C**.]

Effective management of animals during disasters truly does "take a village." The passionate response of regional animal shelters and rescue groups that have made room for displaced animals - as well as individuals donating truckloads of hay and food and hours of volunteer work - during these repeated wildfires has been heartening and inspiring to the exhausted first responders. Special note is made of the UC-Davis Veterinary School's Veterinary Emergency Response Team (VERT) and the California Veterinary Medical Reserve Corps that have provided professional volunteers with extensive experience in animal rescue and disaster medicine.

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS FOR ANIMALS

Formulating a plan prior to a disaster is vital. Organizations such as CalFire, FEMA, and the national humane and veterinary organizations have prepared exhaustive materials on the recommended plans and supplies to enable owners to prepare as best they can. Each disaster is different – each wildfire is different – but advance planning is essential. [Helpful brochures by FEMA and CalFire are attached hereto as **Exhibit D**.] The very least an owner can do is to put a Pet Alert-type sticker on the front gate or front door. [One example is inserted into **Exhibit E.**] The American Veterinary Medical Association has published a booklet, "Saving the Whole Family". This book includes information for owners of horses, livestock, poultry, birds, reptiles, and pocket pets. [Inserted into Exhibit D.]

FINDINGS

F-1. In the event of a widespread disaster, Lake County does not have a sufficient number of shelters to house rescued animals. The two public facilities – in Lakeport and Clearlake – are usually filled to capacity and therefore incapable of accommodating an influx of evacuated animals needing food, care, and, in some cases, medical attention.

F-2. The SPCA, Middletown Animal Hospital, and some stables and ranches in the County offer their facilities to board overflow animals.

F-3. LEAP needs – and is actively soliciting – disaster volunteers who are willing to undergo the necessary training, which is available through LEAP annually and NVADG in Chico three times a year, plus the FEMA online ICS and NIMS courses. Additional intensive training involving horses, for first responders as well as volunteers, is available through Horse and Livestock Team Emergency Response (HALTER) in Glen Ellen and Sonoma Action For Equine Rescue (SAFER) in Sebastopol.

F-4. There are too few telephone lines to support the LEAP office staff during an emergency.

F-5. LEAP does not own a medical RV or trailer where injured animals can be treated in the field.

F-6. In addition to the expected wildfires, LEAP and animal owners, especially of livestock, need to anticipate the effects on water availability of prolonged PG&E preemptive power outages, anticipated to last 5-10 days, during Red Flag Warnings and other critical weather periods.

F-7. Some LEAP volunteers are licensed ham radio operators, but they are not utilized during emergencies. LEAP has recently purchased new handheld radios, all enabled to use the receivers utilized by LCACC during normal operations. These radios are believed to be functional in nearly 90% of their expected working area.

RECOMMENDATIONS

R-1. LEAP should consider creating a separate Facebook page and encourage residents to sign up to offer facilities for temporary placement during evacuations. The information necessarily incudes physical location, type and number of animals that could be accommodated, and ability to transport, as well as contact information. If the list is made public, owners may be able to make private arrangements so as to free up LEAP resources during emergencies. (F-1) (F-2)

R-2. LEAP should develop an expanded presence on Facebook – both on its own page and on a number of other relevant sites (such as Lake County Community Awareness, e.g.) – in order to attract volunteers who care about animals and who want to give back to their community. (F-1) F-3)

R-3. The County should ensure that the LEAP office has adequate telephone lines and personnel to respond immediately to distressed callers during emergencies. (F-4)

R-4. The County should encourage all LCACC employees to undergo the FEMA online training so as to be able to fill in during emergencies. (F-3)

R.5. LEAP should consider distributing its brochure to all feed and pet stores and veterinary clinics in the County, as well as participating in the local community college "career day" events, again with the goal of attracting additional volunteers. (F-1)

R-6. LEAP should explore sources of grant funding to purchase a mobile veterinary clinic for use in emergencies, such as PetSmart Charities, the PETCO Foundation, and Petfinder Foundation, as well as the ASPCApro, to name but a few. (F-5)

R-7. LEAP should seek to be included in any Sheriff's Office, Fire Protection Districts, and CalFire discussions and plans regarding the projected PG&E "elective" power outages during weather alerts and then help the public appreciate the consequences thereof so that they can plan realistically for their animals during these several-day shut-downs. (F-6).

R-8. LEAP should consider how best to integrate even a few ham radio operators to supplement field-to-base communications during widespread evacuations. The Lake County Amateur Radio Society (LCARS) is a rich source of hams ready and able to assist. (F-7).

Request for Responses:

Pursuant to Penal Codes sec.933(c), the following response(s) are required:

- Lake County Board of Supervisors (R3,R4) (90 days)
- Lake County Animal Care and Control (R-1 through R-8) (60 days)

Exhibit A:

News Obits Sports Business Opinion Food & Wine Lifestyle A&E

Camel herd burned out in Valley Fire needs food, water, fencing

SLIDE 1 OF 52

Firefighters pose with camels from Sacred Camel Gardens. (Submitted photo)

ELOÍSA RUANO GONZÁLEZ

THE PRESS DEMOCRAT | September 16, 2015

Follow this story

Exhibit B

LEAP is a group of trained volunteers in cooperation with Lake County Animal Care & Control to aid in the evacuation of domestic animals and livestock during a disaster event.

Follow us on Facebook!

LEAP Volunteers

LEAP SERVICES

Animal Evacuation and transportation during a disaster event

Emergency Sheltering

Welfare checks during a shelter-in-place response

Coordination of Emergency veterinary care

Educating the public about disaster preparedness

Coordination of animal food and supplies with community

Recruit, train and maintain a committed group of volunteers

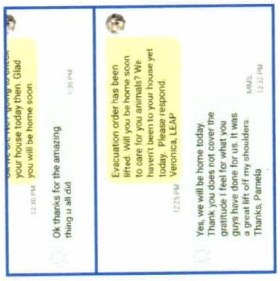
Lake Evacuation LEAP Animal Protection

Want to Join LEAP?

We would love to have you!

With the assistance of CalFire FEMA and NVADG

LEAP is able to provide required training to our volunteers locally here in Lake County.



Contact Veronica to discuss volunteering options and for an application!

LeapVolunteerGroup@gmail.com

707-972-1159

COUNTY OF LAKE
Department of Animal Care & Control

4949 Helbush Drive
Lakeport, California 95453
Phone: (707) 263-0278
Fax: (707) 263-5067

LEAP and the Summer of 2015

(Lake Evacuation & Animal Protection)

Between July 29th, 2015 and September 25th, 2015 Lake County Animal Care/Control and LEAP provided animal evacuation and sheltering assistance to Lake County residents during the Rocky, Jerusalem, and Valley Fires. During the Valley Fire alone, LEAP was able to render assistance to 674 homes, helping almost 3400 animals survive the fire. Additionally, during the Valley Fire, the UC Davis VERT Team, along with several rescue groups working out of Middletown Animal Hospital, rendered aid to many south county residents and their pets. The efforts extended by all people, on behalf of the animals during these tragic events, was nothing short of incredible!

Exhibit C

COUNTY OF LAKE
Department of Animal Care & Control

4949 Helbush Drive
Lakeport, California 95453
Phone: (707) 263-0278
Fax: (707) 263-5067

River/Ranch Fire
(Mendocino Complex)

On July 28th, 2018 the River Fire in Hopland exploded up over the hill and threatened the Lakeport area. Shortly thereafter, the Ranch Fire took off and between the two, almost half the county was evacuated over the course of the next 10 days. With fire resources in short supply, the strategy was simple, protect property and push it away. Our local fire crews and Calfire did an outstanding job given the fact that the Mendocino Complex is now the largest wildland fire in California's history. That being said, many people still lost their homes and much of their property.

LEAP was activated on the same day around 1pm. Our teams immediately began evacuating community animals, but had to shuffle them around, as our animal shelter in Lakeport was also under a mandatory evacuation order. By Monday July 30th, 2018 it was apparent that this fire was in it for the long haul, so reinforcements were called. The National ASPCA, which is partnered with LEAP, responded to Lake County brining their response trailer and 10 members with them. The SPCA of Lake County was opened as well to offer some assistance to the public. Over the course of the next 8 days LEAP and ASPCA teams evacuated almost 400 animals and sheltered in place close to 3000. We received 950 requests for welfare checks in this same time period, a 94% increase in workload. They all got done! The Lakeport animal shelter housed approximately 280 animals, the SPCA of Lake County housed another 80, and various boarding facilities throughout the county held onto another 40 assorted livestock for LEAP.

Many other agencies and individuals came forward and showed there true colors: Dr Takesue of Main Street Vet, Dr Sally of Clearlake, and Dr Smith of Middletown Animal Hospital came out to check on pets in the evacuation centers. Dr Jeske of Wasson Animal

Hospital regularly made rounds at the Lakeport animal shelter checking on the animals, and just about every vet office in the county was housing evacuated pets. Sonoma Animal Services and The Marin Humane Society sent staff to assist with the response. Wine Country Animal Lovers and Jameson Animal Rescue Ranch came up and brought supplies to pet owners in the evacuation centers. Lastly, there were a countless number of organizations and private individuals who donated feed and supplies to assist those in need.

Most people evacuated with their pets, but some escaped the yard or took off in a hurry when the order to leave came in. If you have lost a pet, please check with the animal shelter in Lakeport, check all the local vet offices, and place a lost and found ad on the county animal control website:

http://www.lakecountyca.gov/Government/Directory/Animal_Care_And_Control.htm

Facebook is a good source to check as well. Many pages such as 'Lost Pet Found Pet Lake County' have listings from private citizens who find animals and keep them while they search for the owner.

Our heart felt thoughts and prayers for those who suffered loss, and our admiration at the strength of those who perservere.

Exhibit D

Animal Evacuation

Wildland Fire Safety for Your Livestock and Pets

You've taken steps to keep your family and home fire safe. Don't forget your pets and livestock. With some advance planning you can increase their chances of surviving a wildland fire.

Livestock

- Clear defensible space around your barns, pastures and property just as you do your home. PRC 4291 requires clearance around **all** structures on your property.
- Plan ahead, know where you would evacuate the animals. Contact your local fairgrounds, stockyards, equestrian centers, friends etc. about their policies and ability to take livestock temporarily in an emergency. Have several evacuation routes in mind. If you don't have your own truck and trailer, make arrangements with local companies or neighbors before disaster strikes. Make sure your neighbors have your contact numbers (cell phone, work, home, etc.).
- Have vaccination/ medical records, registration papers and photographs of your animals (proof of ownership) and your Disaster Preparedness Kit.
- If you must leave your animals, leave them in a preselected, cleared area. Leave enough hay for 48 to 72 hours. Do not rely on automatic watering systems. Power may be lost.
- **Do not wait until the last minute to start evacuating!**

Livestock Disaster Preparedness Kit

- Hay, feed and water for three days
- Non-nylon leads and halters
- First aid items
- Wire cutters and a sharp knife
- Hoof pick
- Leg wraps
- Shovel
- Water buckets
- Plastic trash barrel with a lid
- Portable radio and extra batteries
- Flashlights

During a wildland fire, local animal rescue organizations work with law enforcement and fire departments to rescue as many animals as they can. In battling a wildfire, firefighters will do what they can but they are not responsible for evacuating your livestock. Firefighters may cut fences or open gates to free trapped animals.

Animal Evacuation

Pets

- Plan ahead. Know where you will take or leave your pets. In case you are not home when disaster strikes, arrange in advance for a neighbor to check on or transport your pets. Make sure your neighbors have your contact numbers (cell phone, work, home, etc.). In the event of evacuation pets may not be allowed inside human emergency shelters - have an alternate prearranged location to take your animals.
- Make sure your pets are always wearing properly fitted collars with personal identification, rabies and license tags.
- Each animal should have it's own pet carrier. Birds, rodents and reptiles should be transported in cages. Cover cages with a light sheet or cloth to minimize their fear.
- Store vaccination/medical records, veterinary contact information, proof of ownership, a current photo, and a Disaster Preparedness Kit in one location.

Pet Disaster Preparedness Kit

- Pet carrier for each pet
- Two week supply of food and water
- Non-spill food and water bowls
- Pet first-aid kit
- Medications and dosing instructions
- Cat litter box and litter
- Plastic bags for waste disposal
- Paper towels
- Disinfectants
- Leashes/collars/harnesses
- Blankets
- Toys and treats
- Newspaper

If You Must Leave Your Pet

- If you must leave your pets, bring them indoors.
  Never leave pets chained outdoors!
- Use a room with no windows and adequate ventilation, such as a utility room, garage, bathroom, or other area that can be easily cleaned.
  Do not tie pets up!
- Leave only dry foods and fresh water in non-spill containers. If possible open a faucet to let water drip into a large container or partially fill a bathtub with water.

www.fire.ca.gov

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY & FIRE PROTECTION
CAL FIRE
SINCE 1885

OSP 10 120968

Preparing for Your Pets Makes Sense. Get Ready Now.

If you are like millions of animal owners nationwide, your pet is an important member of your household. The likelihood that you and your animals will survive an emergency such as a fire or flood, tornado or terrorist attack depends largely on emergency planning done today. Some of the things you can do to prepare for the unexpected, such as assembling an animal emergency supply kit and developing a pet care buddy system, are the same for any emergency. Whether you decide to stay put in an emergency or evacuate to a safer location, you will need to make plans in advance for your pets. Keep in mind that what's best for you is typically what's best for your animals.

If you must evacuate, take your pets with you if possible. However, if you are going to a public shelter, it is important to understand that animals may not be allowed inside. Plan in advance for shelter alternatives that will work for both you and your pets.

Make a back-up emergency plan in case you can't care for your animals yourself. Develop a buddy system with neighbors, friends and relatives to make sure that someone is available to care for or evacuate your pets if you are unable to do so. Be prepared to improvise and use what you have on hand to make it on your own for at least three days, maybe longer.

Preparing for the unexpected makes sense.
Get Ready Now.

This information was developed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency in consultation with:
American Kennel Club, The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, American Veterinary Medical Association, and The Humane Society of the U.S.

AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB

ASPCA
THE AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS

AMERICAN VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

THE HUMANE SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES

Ready
Prepare. Plan. Stay Informed.®

FEMA

FEMA R-7

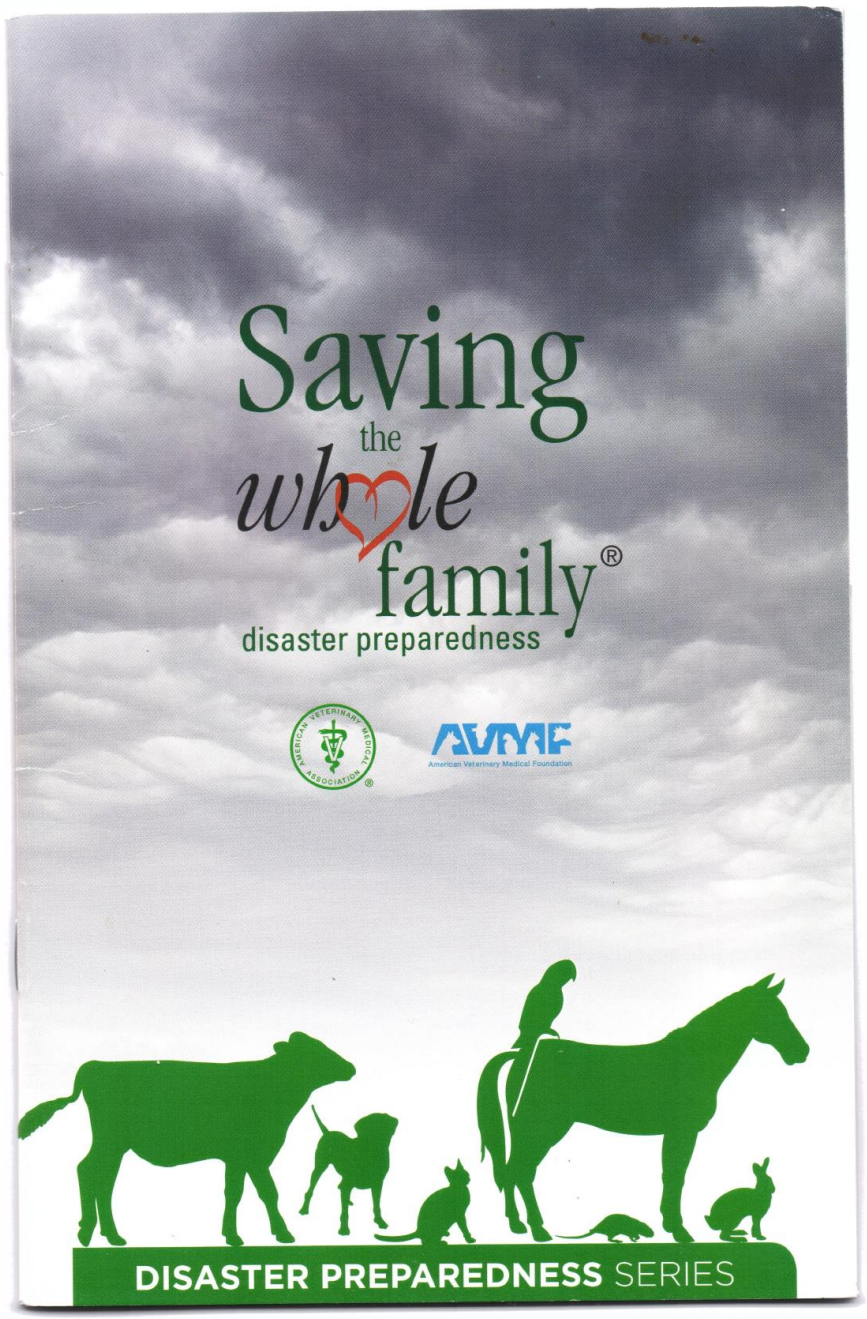
Ready
Prepare. Plan. Stay Informed.®

Prepare For Emergencies Now:

Information For Pet Owners.

FEMA
www.ready.gov

Exhibit E


Saving
the
whole
family®
disaster preparedness
AVMF
American Veterinary Medical Foundation
DISASTER PREPAREDNESS SERIES

Animal Resource Directory

Animal Coalition of Lake County – founded by Rita Doyle in Clearlake in 2005. They offer spay and neuter vouchers to low income people and seniors in the Lake County area for their pets. In addition, they provide services for animals in times of crisis, emergency or evacuation. For additional information contact From Me 2 U at 707-995-0552 or
m.me/animalcoalitionlakecounty or animalcoalition@outlook.com

Animal Refugee Response – founded by Blythe Lucero in 2011. This is a strictly no-kill, non-profit organization dedicated to animals in need. Their work includes animal advocacy, community education and outreach, spay/neuter, & adoption services. Their focus is providing a sanctuary for special-needs animals. They are located at 11767 Candy Lane in Lower Lake, CA . They can be contacted at (510) 230-3758 or www.animalrefugee.org.

Clearlake Animal Care & Control – is the City of Clearlake animal shelter and is a division of the Clearlake Police Department. They respond to calls regarding loose, neglected, abused, and injured animals and operate a small shelter at 6820 Old Highway 53, off Airport Road, Clearlake. They also provide dog licenses. Contact them at 707-994-8251, X 1 or animalcontrol@clearlakepd.org.

Cole Creek Equestrian Center provided shelter for large animals during the recent fires. It is a horse boarding and riding facility located at 4965 Steelhead Drive, Kelseyville, CA. They can be reached at (707) 279 -0915 or at
http://www.colecreekequestrian.com/index.html

Dogwood Animal Rescue Project – is a non-profit organization located in Sonoma County that provides foster rescue, adoption, rehabilitation, wellness, education, spay and neuter services. They have helped sponsor and staff spay-neuter events in Lake County and are active is fostering Lake County animals. They are located at 1415 Fulton Street Suite 205 Box 432 in Santa Rosa, CA 95403. General inquiries can be sent to info@dogwoodrescue.org

HALTER (Horse & Livestock Team Emergency Response) was founded by Julie Atwood in 2013 primarily as a large-animal disaster response organization. They provide rural first-responders with information and equipment for both large-animal technical rescues and for CPR training for small animals during emergencies. They are located at 12099 Sonoma Valley Hwy, Glen Ellen, CA 95442. They can be reached at (707) 318-7526 and also rescue@HALTERfund.org

Hidden Valley Rescue – A nonprofit in Hidden Valley Lake founded by Billie Jo Heubel and dedicated to cat and kitten adoption, fostering/ spay/neutering, and advocacy.

They also help with TNR (Trap/Neuter/Return) for cat colonies. The phone is 707-295-7455.

JARR – Jameson Animal Rescue Ranch is a non-profit, no-kill rescue and sanctuary in the Napa Valley for homeless companion and farm animals. It was founded by Monica Stevens in 2014. They provide training, food, veterinary care, and all other supplies as needed. They also provide vouchers for low-income families for spay and neuter services and have provided funding and staff for vaccination and spay-neuter events in Lake County. Contact them at 707-927-3536 or at monica@jamesonrescueranch.org or http://www.jamesonanimalrescueranch.org.

Lake County CA Animal Advocates is a nonprofit formed by Clearlake Animal Care & Control and is dedicated to the care and welfare, adoption, and fostering of the dogs at the Clearlake shelter. Their phone is 707-994-8251, x 1. Their website is located at https://clearlake.ca.us/211/Animal-Control and their Facebook page is www.facebook.com/LakeCountyAnimalAdvocates/

Lake County DART (Disaster Alliance Response Team) – is a recently formed non-profit based in Clearlake. They provide emergency rescue, first aid, and sheltering services for humans and animals. They can be reached at 707-671-3384.

Lake County Animal Care and Control- is the animal shelter for the County of Lake. They respond to calls about loose, abused, neglected, or injured animals. They offer licensing, limited spay and neuter services, adoption, euthanasia and cremation. They are located at 4949 Hellbush Drive in Lakeport, CA 95453 and can be reached by phone at -707-263-0278.

LEAP (Lake Evacuation & Animal Protection) – formed in 2012 by staff of Lake County Animal Care & Control and trained volunteers to aid in the evacuation of pets, domestic animals, and livestock during emergencies, in conjunction with CalFire. Animals that cannot be evacuated are fed and watered by LEAP on-site. Their contact number is 707-263-0278.

Middletown Animal Hospital - provided and coordinated emergency veterinary services during the Valley Fire and subsequent Lake County fires and also joined veterinary teams to assist during the Carr & Camp fires. They provide general veterinary care, as well as spay and neuter services and large and small-animal boarding. They can be reached at (707) 987-2000.

Moose Lodge- they provided shelter not only for people but for their animals as well during recent fires in Lake County. They are located at 15900 E. Hwy 20 in Clearlake Oaks. They can be reached at (707) 998-3740.

NVADG (North Valley Animal Disaster Group) is a non-profit located in Chico in Butte County. Their hotline is (530)895-0000 . They work with emergency services in a

large geographic area to educate animal professionals, including LEAP, and the public about disaster preparedness and response. They assist with sheltering and evacuations during an emergency. During the fire in Paradise, they worked with Butte County Animal Control and other groups to rescue, feed and water animals, and search for missing animals.

Orphan Dog- is a non-profit begun by Karen Schaver in Lakeport that focuses on county-wide spay and neuter services, foster care, and adoption. They can be reached at karen@lakecountyanimalservices.org and also by phone at 707-319-2624.

SPCA - is located at 8025 Hwy 29 in Kelseyville, CA near Kit's Corner. They currently provide shelter services only during emergencies. They offer low-cost vaccination clinics on the third Sunday of each month and periodically are able to offer low-cost or free (with vouchers) spay-neuter procedures. The application for these services is on-line and must be completed ahead of time. An application is also attached hereto as Exhibit A.

Twin Pine Casino – During the Valley Fire, the Middletown Rancheria of Pomo Indians offered their event center as an evacuation site, which has been available also during subsequent fires. In contrast to most shelters, animals in crates are also accepted there with their owners and are cared for by volunteers and Middletown Animal Hospital staff. The front desk is 707-987-0297; the event center is 707-987-1278.

Wine Country Animal Lovers – An all-volunteer non-profit started by Pam Ingalls in 2012 in Calistoga. Their orientation is a no-kill philosophy. They save lives by pulling animals in need from local shelters and transporting them to no-kill "rescue partners." The animals live in foster homes until they are adopted. Thanks to their generous donors and veterinary partners, they provide affordable spay/neuter services as funding allows, including in Lake County. After the Valley Fire, they organized the animal care at the Fairgrounds in Calistoga where many Lake County evacuees went. They also provide indefinite care for senior pets. They can be contacted at 707-800-5058 or **www.winecountryanimallovers.org**

Please note: Every attempt has been made to include as many organizations as possible that provided services to animals large and small particularly during disasters. If your organization was omitted, please accept our sincere apologies.

NAVIGATING THE FOSTER CARE SYSTEM

Summary:

In response to a complaint, the Lake County Civil Grand Jury reviewed the processes and procedures followed by Lake County's Department of Social Services (DSS) in regard to the placement and monitoring of children who have been removed from their home of origin and placed into foster care. The foster care system is a safety net for children when it is determined that the custodial parents or legal guardians are unable to provide an environment for the child that is free from abuse and/or neglect.

Methodology:

Members of the Lake County Grand Jury met with representatives from multiple public and private agencies involved with the placement and care of foster children from this county. Several issues of paramount importance were identified during these interviews.

Discussion:

Lake County has insufficient approved resource families to meet the needs of children being placed into foster care. As a result, many children who enter foster care are being placed in homes in other counties. This removes a child from his/her entire social infrastructure and is not conducive to their emotional or mental well-being. Additionally, there are no therapeutic homes in Lake County for those children who do not meet the criteria for immediate placement with a resource family. These issues adversely impact not only the well-being of the children in foster care, but also negatively impact the ability of social workers to adequately manage their caseload and meet the overall needs of the children in their care. Social workers spend much of their time transporting children to visits with their parents, court appearances, and other appointments necessitated by their foster placement status. This is detrimental to program outcomes and is not conducive to the well-being and development of the child.

After the children are removed from the care of their parents or legal guardians, the foster care system must ensure their safety and well-being. There are federal and State laws governing the process and ensure that the rights of the children are not violated. Children placed into foster care in Lake County are under the direct supervision of Lake County DSS, with periodic review by the court system. The ultimate goal is to reunify the children with their parents or guardians. In order for that to happen, however, the parents/guardians must demonstrate to the satisfaction of DSS, and in some cases the court, that they have taken the necessary steps to correct whatever issues caused the children to be placed into foster care. If that does not happen, parental rights can be terminated.

In 2015, the California Legislature approved Assembly Bill (AB) 403, known as the "Continuum of Care Reform Act". AB 403 significantly revised the rules governing the foster care system. AB 403 states that the intent of the legislation is to "improve California's child welfare system and its outcomes by using comprehensive initial child assessments, increasing the use of home-based family care and the provision of services and supports to home-based family care, reducing the use of congregate care placement settings, and creating faster paths to permanency resulting in shorter durations of involvement in the child welfare system."

Specifically, the law provides for:

1) The reclassification of treatment facilities and the transition of foster children from group homes to short-term residential treatment centers
2) The imposition of licensing requirements on the short-term residential treatment centers
3) The revision of foster parenting requirements
4) The development of child and family (wraparound) teams better serve the needs of children in foster care, and those who are at risk of foster care placement
5) All licensed foster family agencies to approve "resource families" in lieu of certifying foster homes.

Federal and State laws recognize the fact that the placement of foster children into the most family-like environment is best for the development and well-being of the child. Placement with a relative or someone familiar to the children is the optimum goal when the children must be removed from the care of their parents/guardian. Removing the children from their home of origin is traumatic in and of itself. Unfortunately, there is always an underlying issue of abuse and/or neglect that has necessitated the removal; thus, the trauma is magnified. It is important for the children to maintain their ties to siblings, extended family, friends, school, and their culture. This is best achieved if the children are able to remain in the community in which they have been raised. Unfortunately, there are insufficient approved resource families in Lake County to meet the needs of children who have been placed in foster care. As a

result, the majority of these children are placed with approved resource families in other counties. Thus, the children are removed from all semblance of routine and normal activity. Additionally, social workers must spend much of their time transporting the child to visitation with their parents, court appearances, and other appointments in Lake County.

Studies have shown that better outcomes for foster children occur when an assessment of his/her individual needs occurs early in the placement process. The establishment of a team approach (wraparound) helps ensure that the children, parents, and agencies work together to address issues related to case planning, assessment, and placement decisions. This ensures that the overall needs of the children are being met and their best interests are being served. It should be noted that the ultimate goal of the foster care system is the reunification of the children with their family of origin and the wraparound approach is a fundamental part of this process. Generational poverty, abuse and neglect can make it especially difficult for the parents of foster children to be successful at meeting the requirements to retain or regain custody of their children. In order to break this cycle of abuse and neglect, it is necessary to provide training and support to the parents as well as the children. It is particularly difficult to achieve success if the children are not able to live in the same communities as their parents.

Lake County DSS has the overall responsibility for implementation of federal and state laws governing foster children in Lake County. In order to carry out the provisions of AB 403, DSS has partnered with the Lake County Office of Education (LCOE), Healthy Start, and other public and private agencies involved in the placement and care of foster children in this county. These agencies coordinate their activities through the Foster Youth Services Coordinating Program. Representatives from these agencies meet monthly to coordinate services and respond to the urgent needs of children in foster care. They are working diligently to ensure that the needs of foster children are being met and that the programs supporting them are being implemented efficiently and effectively. For a variety of reasons, foster children are absent from school more than other students living in their homes of origin. Unfortunately, whether or not their absences are excused or unexcused, the school districts are penalized for these absences by the loss of federal funding for their programs. The cost to the schools may result in program reductions, increased class size, inability to hire necessary staff and/or equipment. The cost of chronic absenteeism for the children is also high. It can result in loss of academic standing, failure to complete the requirements for graduation, unemployment or underemployment, as well as other mental, emotional, and physical issues (e.g., depression and addiction). The placement of so many foster children from Lake County in homes in other counties makes this a particularly difficult issue. The children miss school due to mandated family visits and other necessary appointments in Lake County.

There is no question that Lake County DSS, LCOE, Executive Advisory Council and its partners are diligently working to meet the needs of the children who have been entrusted to their care. DSS has increased the number of approved resource families from 13 to 26 during the past year. They, along with the two private agencies that work to place Lake County foster children with resource families, are actively recruiting additional resource families.

The Continuum of Care Reform Act made significant changes to the foster care system in California. All agencies implementing foster care programs have had to make major adjustments to their programs and provide additional training to their staff in order to implement the provisions of the Act. Although there is a need throughout the State for additional resource families to meet the needs of children in foster care, Lake County is particularly challenged in this regard. The majority of children placed into foster care in Lake County are placed in homes located in other counties. As noted, this is not an optimum situation for the child or their parents. It also places an extraordinary burden on the social workers who must spend much of their work time transporting the children between counties. The Lake County Grand Jury recognizes the dedication of the employees of the various agencies serving the needs of Lake County foster children and commend them for their service. They frequently go far beyond the mandates of their jobs in order to ensure that the children and their families receive the support they need.

Findings:

F1. There are insufficient certified resource homes in Lake County to meet the needs of children placed into foster care.

F2. There is a need for a therapeutic home to be established in Lake County.

F3. Entities involved in the well-being of foster children communicate regularly, and work together to ensure that not only the needs of the children are met, but that the parents of these children receive the support they need to regain custody of their children.

F4. Social workers must spend much of their time transporting the children to visitation with their parents, court appearances, and other appointments in and out of Lake County.

Recommendations:

R1: Lake County DSS should continue its efforts to recruit resource families within Lake County. In addition to the county's current usage of social media, it is recommended that DSS explore the possibility of radio announcements and newspaper advertisements. (F1)

R2: Lake County DSS should explore options for establishing a therapeutic group home in Lake County (e.g., a contract with a private firm/agency). (F2)

R3: Lake County DSS should actively utilize resources within the Foster Youth Services Coordinating Program's Executive Advisory Council to address the issues related to the overall needs of foster children and their parents. (F3)

R4: LCDSS should hire drivers to transport foster children to mandatory visits and appointments. (F4)

Request for responses:

Pursuant to Penal Code 933 (c) the following responses are **required**:

The Lake County Board of Supervisors R1, R2, R3 (90 days)

The Lake County Office of Education R3 (60 days)

The Lake County Department of Social Services R1, R2, R3, R4 (60 days)

LAKE COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION
ABOUT HEALTHY START YOUTH AND FAMILY SERVICES

Healthy Start Youth and Family Services is a statewide initiative placing comprehensive support services for children and families at individual school sites. It gives schools, in partnership with public and private service providers, a unique opportunity to restructure systems to better meet the needs of children and families.

Healthy Start offers a wide variety of services that focus on supporting academic success, and building personal strengths for children, youth and families. We assist students so they can come to school ready to learn.

LAKE COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION
FOSTER YOUTH SERVICES

Lake County Office of Education Foster Youth Services strives to address the unique educational needs of foster youth by working collaboratively with youth, caregivers, schools, placing agencies, and other service providers. We are dedicated to improving the academic success of all foster youth by addressing their individual needs.

The Foster Youth Services program was established to meet the unique academic, emotional and basic needs of foster children. Many foster children perform below grade level, are held back in school, and have lower graduation rates than their peers due to multiple school placements and complex family, social and environmental conditions. The Foster Youth Services Program:

- Provides individualized case management to support academic achievement, attendance and positive school behavior
- Provides high school to college transitional support services
- Advocates for foster youths' educational needs
- Advocates locally and state-wide to improve school & child welfare policies
- Facilitates communication and collaboration between school and county agency staff

DISTRICT LIAISONS

Each county in the State of California has a designated educational liaison for youth who are in foster care, or who qualify as homeless. The purpose of this work is to combine efforts with other county agencies to assist with the identification and services to these youth in order for them to succeed in school. Any foster or youth designated as homeless has a right to immediate enrollment in school, the right to a transfer of their educational records within 2 business days, and all of the same rights to an equal education as any other child in school.

STRESS & EARLY BRAIN DEVELOPMENT

Understanding Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)

What are ACEs?

ACEs are significant childhood traumas as identified below which can result in actual changes in brain development. These changes may affect a child's learning ability, social skills, and can result in long-tem health problems. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) views ACEs as one of the major health issues in the 21st century.

Adverse Childhood Experiences can include:

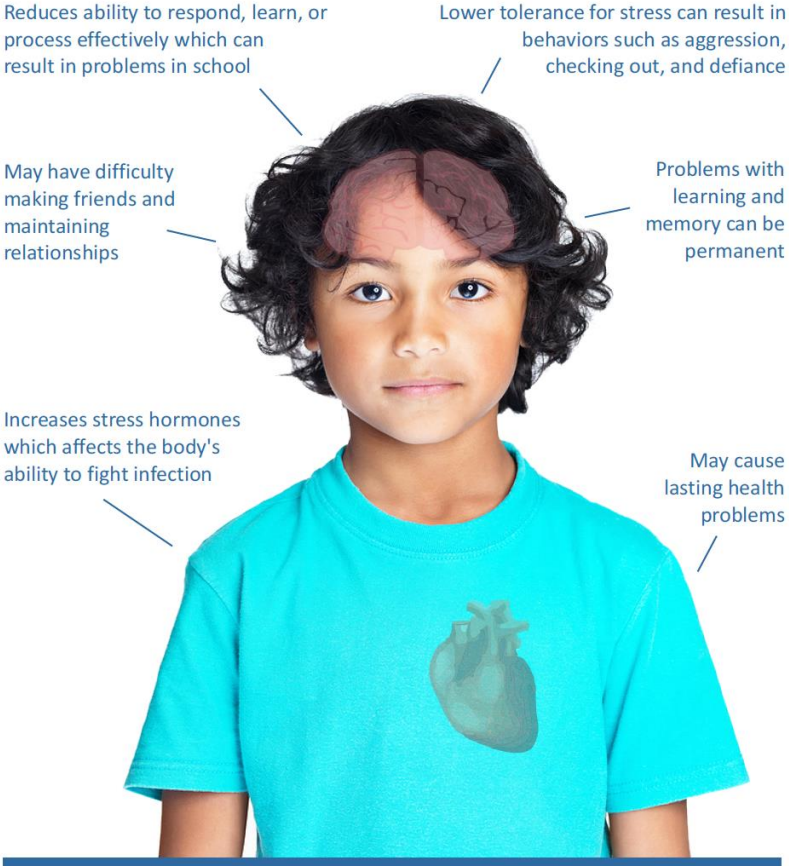
1. Emotional abuse
2. Physical abuse
3. Sexual abuse
4. Emotional neglect
5. Physical neglect
6. Mother treated violently
7. Household substance abuse
8. Household mental illness
9. Parental separation or divorce
10. Incarcerated household member

Exposure to childhood ACEs can increase the risk of:

- Adolescent pregnancy
- Alcoholism and alcohol abuse
- Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD)
- Depression
- Early initiation of sexual activity
- Early initiation of smoking
- Fetal death
- Health-related quality of life
- Illicit drug use
- Ischemic heart disease (IHD)
- Liver disease
- Multiple sexual partners
- Risk for intimate partner violence
- Sexually transmitted diseases (STDs)
- Smoking
- Suicide attempts
- Unintended pregnancies

How do ACEs affect health?

Through stress. Frequent or prolonged exposure to ACEs can create toxic stress which can damage the developing brain of a child and affect overall health.



A **Survival Mode Response** is one that increases heart rate, blood pressure, breathing and muscle tension. When a child is in survival mode, self-protection is their priority. In other words:

"I can't hear you, I can't respond to you, I am just trying to be safe."

The good news is resilience brings hope!

What is Resilience?

Resilience is the ability to adjust (or bounce back) when bad things happen. Research shows resilience helps reduce the effects of ACEs. Protective factors are internal and external resources that help us to build our resilience.

Resilience trumps ACEs!

Parents, teachers and caregivers can help children by:

- Gaining an understanding of ACEs
- Creating environments where children feel safe emotionally and physically
- Helping children identify feelings and manage emotions
- Creating protective factors at home, schools and in communities

What are protective factors?

1. **Parental resilience**
   Increasing parents' ability to problem-solve and build relationships with their child and others
2. **Nurturing and attachment**
   Listening and responding to a child in a supportive way and discovering and paying attention to the child's physical and emotional needs
3. **Social connections**
   Having family, friends or neighbors who are supportive and willing to help or listen when needed
4. **Concrete supports**
   Having their child's basic needs met, such as housing, food, clothing and health care
5. **Knowledge of parenting and child development**
   Increasing parents' knowledge of their child's development and appropriate expectations for their child's behavior
6. **Social and emotional competence of children**
   Helping their child to interact positively with others, manage emotions and communicate feelings

Resources:

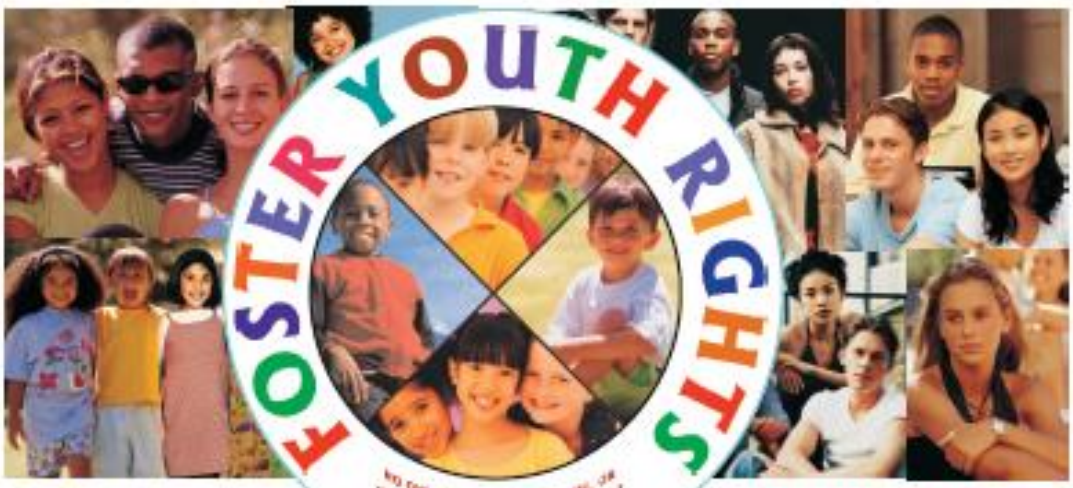
Parent Help 123
www.parenthelp123.org
1-800-322-2588

Resilience Trumps ACEs
www.resiliencetrumpsaces.org

Washington Information Network
www.win211.org
1-877-211-WASH (9274)

CDC Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) Study
www.cdc.gov/ace/about.htm

SPOKANE REGIONAL HEALTH DISTRICT
Community & Family Services Division
1101 West College Avenue, Spokane, WA 99201-2095
509.324.1640 | TDD 324.1464 | www.srhd.org



YOU have RIGHTS too!

YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO LIVE IN A SAFE, COMFORTABLE HOME WITH:

- enough clothes and healthy food
- your own place to store your things
- an allowance (if you are in a group home)
- a phone that you can use to make confidential calls (unless a judge says you cannot)

YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO:

- be treated with respect
- go to religious services and activities of your choice
- send and get unopened mail (unless a judge says someone else can open your mail)
- contact people who are not in the foster care system (like friends, church members, teachers, and others)
- make contact with social workers, attorneys, probation officers, CASAs, foster youth advocates and supporters, or anyone else involved with your case
- be told about your placement by your social worker or probation officer

NO ONE CAN:

- lock you in a room or building (unless you are in a community treatment facility)
- abuse you physically, sexually or emotionally for any reason
- punish you by physically hurting you for any reason
- look through your things unless they have a good and legal reason

YOU HAVE RIGHTS AT COURT TOO. YOU CAN:

- go to court and talk to the judge
- see and get a copy of your court report and your case plan
- keep your court records private, unless the law says otherwise
- be told by your social worker or probation officer and your attorney about any changes in your case plan or placement

YOU HAVE HEALTH RIGHTS. YOU CAN:

- see a doctor, dentist, eye doctor, or talk to a counselor if you need to
- refuse to take medicines, vitamins or herbs (unless a doctor or judge says you must)
- If you are 12 years old or older, you have the right to information about your sexual health in a way that you understand it. This includes learning about the way sexually transmitted infections and diseases (STDs) are spread and how you can prevent them; how you can prevent pregnancy and what to do if you are pregnant

BEING TREATED DIFFERENTLY

If you feel you are being harassed or discriminated against because of your sex, race, color, religion, sexual orientation, ethnic group, ancestry, national origin, gender identity, mental or physical disability or HIV status, or for any other reason, you should call the Foster Care Ombudsman Help-line for assistance.

YOU HAVE SCHOOL RIGHTS. YOU CAN:

- go to school every day
- go to after-school activities right for your age and developmental level

Remember your rights.

Also remember that the foster parent's or group home's job is to supervise you and keep you safe and healthy.

YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO DO SOME THINGS ON YOUR OWN. YOU CAN:

- have your own emancipation bank account (unless your case plan says you cannot)
- learn job skills right for your age
- work, unless the law says you are too young
- manage the money you earn (if right for your age, developmental level and it's in your case plan)
- go to Independent Living Program classes and activities if you are old enough

YOU HAVE FAMILY RIGHTS TOO. YOU CAN:

- visit and contact your brothers and sisters (unless a judge says you cannot)
- contact parents and other family members, too (unless a judge says you cannot)

YOU HAVE OTHER RIGHTS TOO. YOU CAN:

- tell the judge how you feel about your family, lawyer, and social worker
- tell the judge what you want to happen in your case
- have your own lawyer
- live with a family member if that would be a safe place
- call the Foster Care Ombudsman Office and Community Care Licensing at any time
- get help with school if you need it

Call the FOSTER CARE OMBUDSMAN at:
1-877-846-1602 (It's a free call)
Remember: What you tell us is private
(except in certain circumstances).

Or, write to us at:
Foster Care Ombudsman
744 P Street, MS 8-13-25
Sacramento, CA 95814

Or, fill out the "Complaint Page" on our website:
www.fosteryouthhelp.ca.gov
Or, send us e-mail:
fosteryouthhelp@dss.ca.gov

The Office of the State Ombudsman wishes to thank the Los Angeles Affiliate of the National Association of Counsel for Children for their pioneering efforts to inform youth of their rights in the foster system.

The Office of the State Ombudsman wishes to thank the Center for Families, Children & the Courts, Administrative office of the Courts, for their assistance with printing and distribution.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA ◆ HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY ◆ DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

FOSTER YOUTH EDUCATION RIGHTS

1. RIGHT TO REMAIN IN YOUR SCHOOL OF ORIGIN

- You have the right to stay in the same school after you move to a new foster care placement. Your "school of origin" can be:
  1. The school you attended when you first entered foster care,
  2. The school you most recently attended, or
  3. Any school you attended in the last 15 months that you feel connected to.
- Your school district must work with you, your education rights holder,* your caregiver, and your social worker/ probation officer to develop a plan to transport you to your school of origin.
- If you are transitioning from elementary school to middle school or from middle school to high school, you have the right to transition to the same school as your classmates.
- If there is any disagreement about which school you will attend, you have the right to stay in your school of origin until the disagreement is resolved.

2. RIGHT TO IMMEDIATE ENROLLMENT IN SCHOOL

- You have the right to immediately enroll in your regular home school after you move placements.
- You cannot be forced to attend a continuation school or other alternative education program, such as independent study, even if you are behind in credits or have discipline problems at school.
- You have a right to immediately enroll in school and begin attending classes, even if you do not have the paperwork you would normally need for enrollment (such as birth certificate, transcript, or IEP) or you did not check-out from your previous school.
- Your previous school must send your education records to your new school after you enroll.
- You have the right to participate in any activities available at your new school, such as sports teams, tutoring, or after-school clubs, even if you miss a tryout or sign-up deadline.

3. RIGHT TO PARTIAL CREDITS FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

- If you change schools during the school year, you have a right to partial credits in all classes that you are passing when you leave your old school, even if you do not complete the entire class.
- After you change schools, your new school must accept the partial credits issued by your old school.
- After you change schools, you have the right to be enrolled in the same or similar classes you were enrolled in at your last school.
- You cannot be forced to retake a class or part of a class that you have already completed with a passing grade, if it would make you off-track for high school graduation.
- You have the right to take or retake any class that you need to go to a California State University or University of California.
- Your grade cannot be lowered because you were absent from school for a court hearing, placement change, or a court-related activity.

4. GRADUATION RIGHTS

- You have the right to stay in high school for a fifth year to complete your school district graduation requirements, even if you are over 18.
- If you are behind on your credits, and you transferred schools after 10th grade, you may be eligible to graduate under AB 167/216 by completing only the state graduation requirements (130 credits in specific classes) instead of your school district's requirements.
- If you are eligible, the decision of whether to graduate under AB 167/216 is made by your education rights holder.

5. COLLEGE RIGHTS

- You have the right to have the application fee waived when you apply to a community college in California.
- You have the right to receive the maximum amount of federal student aid and you may be eligible for up to $5,000 per year from the Chafee scholarship.

6. SCHOOL DISCIPLINE RIGHTS

- You cannot be suspended for more than 5 school days in a row or for more than 20 days in a school year.
- You have a right to be told why you are being suspended and the right to provide your version of events and evidence before you are suspended, unless there is an emergency. If the behavior for which you are being suspended could subject you to criminal charges, you should consult with your education rights holder or attorney before providing an oral or written statement to the school or police.
- Your attorney and social worker must be invited to a meeting before your suspension can be extended beyond 5 days and a suspension can only be extended if you are being considered for expulsion.
- You have a right to a formal hearing, and to be represented by an attorney at that hearing, before you are expelled.
- If you are facing a possible expulsion, your attorney and social worker must be notified. If you are in special education, your attorney and social worker must be invited to a meeting to decide whether your behavior was related to your disability.

7. RIGHT TO YOUR SCHOOL RECORDS

- You have the right to access your school records if you are 16 years or older or have finished 10th grade.
- Your social worker/probation officer and education rights holder can access your school records as well.

NON-EDUCATION RIGHTS

As a foster youth, you also have other rights that are not related to school, such as the right to see a doctor or to have private storage space. For more information, please see the Foster Youth Bill of Rights (www.fosteryouthhelp.ca.gov/rights2.html)

*EDUCATION RIGHTS HOLDERS

Every foster youth under age 18 must have an education rights holder, who is required to make education decisions in the youth's best interest. Foster youth who are 18 or older have the right to make their own education decisions. Your education rights holder may be your parent or legal guardian, your caregiver, or another person chosen by the court. Your education rights holder cannot be your social worker or probation officer, your attorney, or group home or school staff members. It is important to know who your education rights holder is. If you need information about who your education rights holder is, you can contact your social worker or attorney.

If you believe your education rights have been violated,

you can file a complaint. The school has 60 days to investigate and give you a written response. For information about how to file a complaint, please visit cde.ca.gov/re/cp/uc, or call the California Dept. of Education Coordinated School Health and Safety Office at (916) 319-0914.

For more information about your education rights, please see the Foster Youth Education Toolkit (www.kids-alliance.org/edtoolkit) or the California Youth Education Task Force (www.cfyetf.org). You also can contact your school district's Foster Youth Educational Liaison or your county's Foster Youth Services Coordinating Program (FYSC) at cde.ca.gov/ls/pf/fy.

YOUR FOSTER YOUTH EDUCATIONAL LIAISON IS:

_____

AND CAN BE REACHED AT:

_____

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION · STATE OF CALIFORNIA

PRE K-12 AND BEYOND CALIFORNIA FOSTER YOUTH EDUCATION TASK FORCE

ALLIANCE *for* CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

INSPECTION OF THE LAKE COUNTY DETENTION AND HOLDING FACILITIES 2019

SUMMARY

In accordance with California Penal Code: §919(b), inspections were conducted by the 2018/2019 Lake County Civil Grand Jury (Grand Jury) of the following facilities: Lake County Jail at Hill Road, Lake County Courthouse holding cells, Clearlake Police Department holding facility, Konocti Conservation Camp and the Tehama County Juvenile Detention Center in Red Bluff. All facilities largely met or exceeded the minimum requirementS. The Lake County Jail experienced some issues during evacuation but these were extraordinary and are currently being addressed.

BACKGROUND

California Penal Code §919(b) states that: "The Grand Jury shall inquire into the condition and management of the public prisons within the county."

Lake County no longer operates a juvenile detention facility and instead has contracted with Tehama County to house juvenile detainees.

METHODOLOGY

Representatives of the Grand Jury conducted on-site visits and met with administrative and line staff at each location. Inspection tours included food preparation, medical facilities, recreation, classroom, visiting, and living areas.

The Grand Jury also used the current inspection reports from the Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) to assist with the inspections.

Previous Grand Jury reports were also reviewed prior to the inspections.

DISCUSSION

Clearlake Police Department operates a Temporary Holding Facility

The most current BSCC report noted:

The fire inspection was past due.
The Policy and Procedure Manual was incomplete.
The Biennial Title 15 training for all staff responsible for supervising inmates was incomplete.

At the time the Grand Jury visited the facility, the current fire inspection report (which had been overlooked by the BSCC inspector) was forwarded to the BSCC. Seven officers had completed the required Title 15 training requirement, and the Policy and Procedure Manual was being updated to include the incomplete emergency procedures portion.

Conclusion: There were no reportable findings.

Tehama County Juvenile Detention Center

Lake County Probation no longer operates a juvenile hall and, instead, contracts with Tehama County for juvenile detention services, located in Red Bluff. Youths are detained in juvenile hall pending their Juvenile Court hearings, while they are serving a commitment, or while they are awaiting out-of-home placement in a foster/group home, camp, or other institution. The Tehama County Juvenile Facility houses up to 64 youths and is operated with as homelike an environment as possible. Only parents/legal guardians and grandparents are allowed to visit. No person under the age of 18 is permitted to visit. The youths are entitled to two hours of visitation each week, for either 30 or 60 minutes each visit.

The most current BSCC report noted no issues and was very complimentary of the staff. The Grand Jury noted a very positive environment and the staff seemed very dedicated. The Facility operates on a system of rewards rather than discipline. Video conferencing is available if a detainee's family is unable to travel to Red Bluff for visits.

Conclusion: There were no reportable findings.

Lake County Courthouse Holding Facility

This facility has "aged out" of the BSCC system and is on permanent waiver. As a part of the courthouse, the holding facility falls under state jurisdiction and is only maintained by the County. The facility is very basic and has had no improvements for many years, but it is rarely used. Inmates are usually taken directly to the courtroom for appearances and are rarely placed in the holding cells.

Conclusion: There were no reportable findings.

Konocti Conservation Camp

Konocti Conservation Camp #27 (CC27) is jointly operated by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Prevention (CalFire) and the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR). Its primary mission is to provide inmate fire suppression crews wherever needed in California. There are 44 camps, state-wide, of which three are for women. Inmates volunteer to be assigned to a camp, and only those with no history of arson, rape, or other sex crimes are eligible. There is substantial emphasis on rehabilitation, beginning with simple discipline, such as getting up at 6

a.m., to help them "make it in the world." The formal disciplinary procedures progress from verbal warnings to written warnings to, at the extreme, being returned to prison.

The Camp currently has 94 inmates (ages 18-60+) – 56 on fire crews and the rest in support roles (kitchen, vehicle maintenance, water treatment, office). In order to build cohesion, each fire crew has 12-16 members that 24/7 train together, work together, sleep in the same pod, eat together, and recreate together. All of the training is for wildland fires, not structure fires. If an inmate passes an initial one week of physical education, he is sent for two weeks of firefighting training. The inmates are paid $2.45/day, with an extra $1/hour when actually fighting a fire, and their sentences may be reduced. During all of 2018, the inmates spent nearly eight thousand man-hours fighting fires throughout the state. CalFire has hired some inmates after release.

Also provided by CC27 is equipment maintenance and repair for a variety of fire service equipment. This unit can also operate as a mobile unit to provide repair services on-site.

CC27 also participates in conservation and community service programs in Lake, Napa, Sonoma, Yolo, Colusa, and Mendocino counties. During the winter/spring, the inmates are assigned to hand crews to clear vegetation locally. In 2018, CC27 provided more than six hundred crew days (day = shift) performing community and conservation projects.

CC27 further provides a mobile kitchen unit that prepares thousands of meals for fire fighters working active fires. During the Mendo Complex fires, CC27 was the base camp, responsible for feeding 2500-2600 firefighters daily.

The BSCC does not inspect this facility.

Conclusion: There were no reportable findings.

Lake County Adult Detention Facility

The facility operates as the county jail under the supervision and budget of the Sheriff's office. The jail houses adult male and female inmates serving court ordered sentences, inmates awaiting transfer to a state-owned facility, as well as those awaiting court appearances being held on bail after booking. The capacity of the jail is 286 and the typical census runs slightly more than three hundred. Overcrowding resulted in two findings by the BSCC, one of which cited the square footage required per inmate in dayroom facilities and the available seating in the dayroom. On the day of the

inspection, four of the ten housing units exceeded capacity. The second BSCC finding was regarding the number of toilet and wash basin fixtures available per inmate. On the date of inspection three of the ten housing units did not meet this requirement. A third issue noted by the BSCC was missing padding material in a sobering cell, which had been removed due to a flooding issue. This finding has since been resolved.

Due to the issue of overcrowding, the BSCC reviewed staffing and inmate complaints as indicators of problems typically found when overcrowding occurs. The BSCC noted no increase of inmate complaints, but noted some late safety checks due to limited staff. These late checks typically occurred during inmate movement (i.e. food service), shift change, and emergencies. While the BSCC noted that staffing levels met the minimum acceptable requirements, there seems to be little flexibility for periods of high demand of staff time. On the day the Grand Jury inspected the facility, there were 16 vacant positions for correctional officers reported, resulting in frequent mandatory staff overtime and the need to fill correctional-officer shifts with patrol deputies. [Please refer to the concurrent Grand Jury report entitled "Public Safety – The First Responsibility of Local Government" for issues regarding critical staffing issues within the Sheriff's Office.]

During the River Fire in 2018, the jail experienced its first ever evacuation of inmates and staff. With the cooperation of other agencies and counties, all inmates were safely transported to other facilities in the area. Correctional staff was transferred, as well, and maintained inmate security in other facilities.

Conclusion:
Critical staffing issues currently exist in several departments of the Sheriff's department, including correctional officers at the jail.

FINDINGS:

F-1 The Lake County Adult Detention Facility is under-staffed resulting in mandatory overtime, causing employee "burnout" and low morale and that could raise safety concerns for both staff and inmates.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

R-1 Recommended follow up by the 2019/2020 Grand Jury. (F-1)

REQUEST FOR RESPONSE:

No written responses are required for this report.

PUBLIC SAFETY - THE FIRST RESPONSIBILITY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

SUMMARY

Public safety is a State of California Constitutional mandate. The budgetary and resultant severe staffing shortfall in the Lake County Sheriff's Office threatens the public safety of Lake County's residents and visitors. Especially the patrol officer shortage forces the Sheriff's Office to prioritize calls for service, with some calls not being responded to. This, coupled with an evident increase in crime in the unincorporated areas of the County, has caused some residents to both feel unsafe and the need to form neighborhood-watch citizen patrols. After multiple public presentations by both the Sheriff and the Deputy Sheriffs' Association (DSA) members explaining the criticality of the staffing shortage, the Board of Supervisors (BOS) in May, 2019, approved the six-month Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the DSA that is expected to improve retention and recruitment of deputies.

METHODOLOGY

The Grand Jury interviewed senior public-safety personnel, attended BOS meetings, reviewed documentation of department staffing, spoke with recent vandalism and assault victims, attended regional municipal advisory-council meetings, reviewed the MOU between the DSA and the County, and read widely relevant articles in the local and national media.

DISCUSSION

As a State mandate, public safety has long been recognized as being a primary responsibility of local government. The California State Constitution reads in relevant part in Article XIII: Taxation, Section 35(a) [added in 1993]:

"(a) The people of the State of California find and declare all of the following:

(1) Public safety services are critically important to the security and well-being of the State's citizens and to the growth and revitalization of the State's economic base.

(2) The protection of the public safety is the first responsibility of local government and local officials have an obligation to give priority to the provision of adequate public safety services."

(3) In order to assist local government in maintaining a sufficient level of public safety services, the proceeds of the tax enacted pursuant to this section shall be designated exclusively for public safety…."

Section 36(a) defines "public safety services" as including:

"(A) Employing and training public safety officials, including law enforcement personnel, attorneys assigned to criminal proceedings, and court security staff.

(B) Managing local jails and providing housing, treatment, and services for, and supervision of, juvenile and adult offenders…."

Sheriffs have three obligatory duties: running the county jail, providing security for the courts, and providing civil services such as serving warrants and notices. In Lake County, the Sheriff also staffs the Central Dispatch Center for 9-1-1 calls. While not explicitly an obligatory service, however, in the State's 28 rural counties, patrol, investigation of crimes, and arrest of law violators is not only necessary, but is also expected by county residents and visitors. However, these rural counties, such as Lake County, face a growing and serious law enforcement crisis: a severe shortage of staff that potentially puts the public — and the deputies themselves — in danger.

Lake County comprises 1,329 square miles in which more than two-thirds of the populace live in rural or unincorporated areas. In recent years, retention and recruitment issues have coalesced and have resulted in not enough sworn deputies to provide adequate public safety for the communities they serve.

The Sheriff has 171 positions allocated to his department, including 40 positions for deputy sheriffs and 45 for correctional officers. Currently there are 15 vacant deputy sheriff positions and 16 vacant correctional officer positions. To fulfill the mandatory duty of adequately staffing the Jail, the Sheriff has had to reassign five deputies to the Jail, as well as one to Dispatch, thereby removing them from patrol. No narcotic investigators are presently on-staff. One detective is assigned to sex-crimes investigation, and the remaining two detectives are responsible for all other investigations. No certified fire investigator is on-staff, despite the recent worst fire seasons in the County's history.

Some of the Sheriff's officers have left for higher salaries and lower healthcare costs elsewhere. When seasoned Sheriff's Office employees leave, a decrement in departmental and community institutional knowledge, continuity, and history results. As well, law-enforcement employee turnover has attendant costs not only for overtime (for activities not reimbursed by grant funding), but also for extended recruiting, training, and supervision.

This staffing deficit especially affects all of the County's unincorporated areas. The estimated response time for all calls is said to be 41 minutes. A resident calling for aid in the more remote areas might have to wait 90-120 minutes for a deputy to arrive, if the deputy is able to respond at all. For certain periods of the day, only three – and, more often, one or two or sometimes no - deputies are actively patrolling, while calls for service have nearly doubled in the past 10 years. The safety of deputies is equally important, but backup may not be available during off-hours, and a deputy has to

respond to a call alone. Particularly in areas with compromised radio and cellphone reception, a serious potential risk of harm results.

This understaffing realistically results in the need to triage calls. Reports of pot grows, minor vandalism, drug sales, or squatters, for example, likely will not result in dispatch of a deputy. Thus, when the Sheriff's Office is faced with deficient staffing levels, policing becomes reactive rather than proactive, in terms of necessarily focusing on ongoing criminal acts or investigating crimes once they have occurred. Proactive policing attempts to deter criminal activity by showing a police presence, which serves to reduce or prevent crime and disorder.

Lack of response or prolonged response times also influence County residents' perception of safety, which threatens their sense of security. Residents who feel that they and their families are unsafe may move out of Lake County, thereby further reducing property tax income. And this Spring, in response to a publicized increased minor-crime rate along the Northshore, the Sheriff himself has gone on patrol. In addition, there has been a resurgence of interest among Northshore citizens in creating/reactivating Neighborhood Watch Patrols to help restore a sense of safety. These programs in Lucerne and Upper Lake, when appropriately oriented by the Sheriff's Office, can be effective in reporting and documenting crime events and suspicious circumstances.

Unfortunately, citizens on patrol sometimes exceed their responsibilities. As one example, in March of this year, an unemployed former private security officer who was a member of a neighborhood watch group was arrested in Lucerne for carrying a loaded firearm in public. He was wearing a badge, a tactical vest, and a knit hat with the words "security officer" on it and was also driving a car with flashing emergency lights. In addition to a loaded semi-automatic pistol, he carried extra magazines, pepper spray, and handcuffs. In this setting of heightened sensitivity to crimes, some members of the public may be injured or cause injury to others, with potentially harmful legal repercussions for the County.

At the end of April, during preparation of this report, a Lucerne resident was injured when he was accosted and kicked as he left his vehicle, following which he required emergency room treatment. He thought that the attack was a symptom of the low number of sheriff's deputies patrolling the Lucerne community. As a resident for almost 70 years, he was angry that the County was not doing enough to protect its residents, who, he pointed out, paid taxes to receive law-enforcement services. [https://www.record-bee.com/2019/05/03/recent-burglaries-beating-in-northshore-cause-concern/]

Multiple contributing factors, not solely financial, exacerbate this threat to public safety:

a. An eroded property-tax base due to multiple wildfires since 2015 has destroyed several thousand homes and many businesses, including several busy resorts, and has limited the Sheriff's budget, which comes primarily from the General Fund.
b. Lake County is reportedly the poorest or second poorest county in the State, with the lowest median household income ($36,548), a poverty rate of 25%, and an unemployment rate of 11.9%, making economic recovery from the 2008 recession and from the wildfires even slower and discouraging new businesses from locating here, thus further depressing property taxes.
c. Low entry-level salaries are $24.69 hourly for deputies and $19.23 for correctional officers. When out-of-pocket costs for benefits are subtracted, the pre-tax hourly rates are reduced to $12.83 and $9.20, respectively. The costs of health care coverage, which for a married Deputy or Correctional Officer with two children may run to $13,000-$14,000 annually, are non-competitive with surrounding counties, making recruitment and retention all the more difficult. (Please see Exhibit 1)
d. The State's prison realignment program that shifted many low-level felons from prisons to county jails has resulted in an average population in 2017-18 of 307 inmates at Hill Road, demanding full staffing by the Sheriff's Office.
e. The reclassification of some non-violent crimes from felonies to misdemeanors has created a revolving-door effect that quickly returns low-level violators to the streets, enabling them to commit further crimes.
f. Fewer youths today are attracted generally to law enforcement as a career due to negative portrayal in the media, a rigorous and lengthy application process, the constant and real threat of danger, mandatory overtime, long shifts, relatively low pay, and the requisite authoritarian command structure, among others factors.
g. The applicant pool for law enforcement has changed, shifting generally from young professionals who "live to work" to those who "work to live." Younger candidates often want to know what the department can offer them and want shifts allowing a better work-life balance.
   Additionally, the pipeline from military service to law enforcement requires greater screening of applicants.

The Sheriff is attempting to adapt to budgetary constraints and to be proactive in attracting new recruits, as well as emphasizing the Department's "growing its own" program in an attempt to keep valuable personnel, for all of which he deserves recognition and commendation. Among his actions have been:

a. Implementing a $5,000 hiring bonus.
b. Eliminating unfunded positions.
c. Implementing an on-line reporting system to try to maintain essential department services for the public.
d. Sponsoring current County employees to become trainees, in exchange for which they commit to remaining in the department for three years.
e. Supporting the Explorer programs in the schools.
f. Being consistently present at high school and police academy "career days."
g. Organizing periodic Citizens' Academies and permitting "ride-alongs," which both educate residents about law enforcement issues and also attract potential candidates.
h. Dedicating a sergeant and a deputy to social-media outreach to millennials.
i. Hiring 900-hour employees.
j. Working with Human Resources to speed up the hiring process.
k. Relaxing the minimum standards for applicants.

The Sheriff's Office has brought the staffing deficits to the attention of the Board of Supervisors on several occasions during 2018 and early 2019, presenting them with stark patrol statistics and suggesting changes to benefits that would help with recruitment and retention. The Supervisors did increase the County's share of healthcare costs in December, 2018. However, the BOS initially resisted appeals to approve additional suggested changes, choosing instead to await the outcome of the "Classification and Compensation" (Class & Comp) study, which is expected to be available in September, 2019.

Then in May of 2019, the BOS approved the MOU negotiated between the DSA and the County that provided the union's requested adjustment to the costly healthcare benefits for the deputies. For the limited term of the MOU (5/7/19-12/31/19), the County will pay 80% of the deputies' healthcare costs, and the deputies will pay 20%. Additional MOU provisions include a vacation pay-out, a five-day holiday around Christmas, and an agreement that the Class & Comp study would prioritize analyzing the benefits and pay for the DSA members first. This approval of the MOU was met with enthusiasm by both the BOS and the Sheriff's Office.

FINDINGS:

F-1: Public safety is a State of California Constitutional mandate.

F-2: The combined average vacancy rate among the Sheriff's deputies, correctional officers, and dispatchers is currently 36%. [See, Exhibit 1]

F-3: Inadequate numbers of patrol officers place the safety of Lake County residents and visitors – and the officers themselves - at-risk.

F-4: The Sheriff's Office has been losing employees in large part due to the County's non-competitive salary and health insurance costs.

F-5: In December, 2018, the Board of Supervisors increased its maximum monthly contribution for insurance coverage for deputies in the Union from $800 to $1,000. [The Board is able to negotiate with the DSA separately.]

F-6: The Sheriff has requested restructuring of ranks within management in Dispatch and the Jail, which was approved "in theory" by the Board of Supervisors, but was not funded.

F-7: Short-staffing in the Jail and Patrol divisions results in substantial overtime costs that can impact the General Fund when grant funds are inapplicable.

F-8: The lack of available patrol officers leads to community insecurity and decreased trust of the reliability of the Sheriff's Office by the residents they are entrusted to protect.

F-9: Communities in Lake County that feel unsafe believe that they need to mobilize citizen patrols. Although the actions of these groups are not monitored by the Sheriff's Office, fallout from any resulting injurious events may well result in lawsuits against the County, as well as against the involved community members.

F-10: In May, 2019, the BOS agreed to an 80/20 split for deputies' healthcare costs through its commendable approval of the MOU with the DSA, effective through the end of this year. The terms of the agreement immediately produced the desired effect, in that one deputy decided not to leave and another deputy decided to return.

F-11: The Sheriff currently has no arson investigator.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

R-1: The Board should prioritize adequate staffing levels in the Sheriff's Office as a California Constitutional mandate by making changes requested by the Sheriff that will assist in retention and recruitment. [F-1 through F10]

R-2: The Board should fund the Sheriff's requested restructuring of management staff in Dispatch and the Jail. [F-6]

R-3: The Board should consider instituting a relocation allowance for sworn officers as it has for other hard-to-fill positions. [F-2, F-3, F-4]

R-4: The Board should continue the negotiated MOU terms for the Sheriff's deputies after the current MOU expires. [F-4, F-5, F-8, F-10]

R-5: The Board should consider front-loading the 12-step salary increases for deputies while retaining the cap. [F-2, F-3, F-7]

R-6: The Sheriff must continue to educate the Citizen's Patrols that are sprouting up in underserved communities about what they can and cannot legally do. [F-9]

R-7: The Sheriff should attempt to fill the arson investigator position. [F-11]

REQUESTED RESPONSES:

Board of Supervisors – 90 days [R-1 through R-5]

Sheriff – 60 days [R-6]

[The Grand Jury would like to thank and applaud the Sheriff and his staff, deputies, and correctional officers for their professionalism in the face of continuing fiscal hardships, as well as the BOS for their recognition of the problems and support for the MOU.]

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Exhibit 1

DEPUTY SHERIFF I (ENTRY LEVEL)

ENTRY LEVEL SALARY $24.69 X 2080 = $51,335

CALPERS DEDUCTION 12% = $6,160 OR $2.96 PER WORK HOUR

SOCIAL SECURITY 7.65% = $3927 OR $1.88 PER WORK HOUR

EMPLOYEE +2 HEALTH BENEFIT COST = $14,609 OR $7.02 PER WORK HOUR

- $24.69 HOURLY RATE
- -$2.96 CALPERS
- -$1.88 SOCIAL SECURITY
- -$7.02 HEALTH INSURANCE

$12.83 PER HOUR- BEFORE STATE AND FEDERAL TAXES

CORRECTIONAL OFFICER I (ENTRY LEVEL)

ENTRY LEVEL SALARY $19.23 X 2080 = $39,998

CALPERS DEDUCTION 12% = $4,800 OR $2.31 PER WORK HOUR

SOCIAL SECURITY 7.65% = $3,060 OR $1.47 PER WORK HOUR

EMPLOYEE +2 HEALTH BENEFIT COST = $13,002 OR $6.25 PER WORK HOUR

- $19.23 HOURLY RATE
- -$2.31 CALPERS
- -$1.47 SOCIAL SECURITY
- -$6.25 HEALTH INSURANCE

$9.20 PER HOUR- BEFORE STATE AND FEDERAL TAXES

DELIVERING A DIFFERENCE

Meals on Wheels

"DELIVERING A DIFFERENCE – MEALS ON WHEELS"

The purpose of the Older American Act is "To secure and maintain maximum independence and dignity in a home environment for the eligible of self-care with appropriate supportive and nutrition services…Remove individual and social barriers to economic and personal independence for the eligible service population". (Sections 301A and 301B of the original Older American Act. (**See Exhibit 1**)

SUMMARY

Meals on Wheels (MOW) began in Great Britain during the WWII. The program was introduced to America in 1954 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. It is now found throughout the United States.

MOW is a much-needed program for Lake County. Whereas the percentage of the population over 60 years old in the U.S. is 20.3%, and in California it is 18.2%, in Lake County it is 28.2%.

California Penal Code 933.6 states:

"A grand jury may at any time examine the books and records of any nonprofit corporation established by or operated on behalf of a public entity the books and records of which it is authorized by law to examine, and, in addition to any other investigatory powers granted by this chapter, may investigate and report upon the method or system of performing the duties of such nonprofit corporation."

The Grand Jury maintains that the county involvement cited in the several preceding sentences above and the county fiscal contribution to MOW thus qualifies it for Grand Jury review. Some non-Grand Jury standard reviews of this report have recommended it not be issued for jurisdictional reasons. The Grand Jury has listened to, and considered strongly, these recommendations. The Grand Jury has elected to issue all elements of this report due to the significant Lake County governance involvement and the critical nature of support for a vulnerable portion of our county.

This important program is administered by the senior centers and the Area Agency on Aging (AAA) – both of which are normally outside the purview of a civil grand jury.

However, in Lake County the directors of our senior centers are connected by a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) with PSA 26 AAA (covering both Lake and Mendocino counties) to provide this service. Lake County AAA is administered by the county government, whereas all other California counties AAA are administered by non-profit organizations. Thus, this unique AAA can be subject to Grand Jury review.

The Civil Grand Jury found significant evidence of non-compliance.

METHODOLOGY

The Lake County Civil Grand Jury (Grand Jury) requested interviews with many people who are involved with MOW, including representatives from senior centers and the AAA. While some were helpful and forthright, others remained uncommunicative, uncooperative or avoided the grand jury altogether. An on-site visit to one center with food preparation facilities was also made.

DISCUSSION

The MOW function is to provide a nutritionally balanced meal to senior citizens and infirm persons direct to their doors (**see Exhibit 2**). Frozen meals are also provided for dining on Saturday and Sunday. The meals are prepared and packaged by Lakeport, Middletown, Clearlake and Clearlake Oaks senior centers. The meals are then delivered to those enrolled in the program by volunteer drivers. Some drivers are given a small stipend to help cover gas costs.

Potential clients fill out an assessment form (**see Exhibit 3**). This information ensures they qualify for the program. The information on approved individuals is entered into a computer program monitored by the California Department of Aging (CDA). This information or any changes must be reported on a quarterly basis to CDA.

The senior centers purchase foods from different suppliers. These suppliers must be on an approved list provided by Lake County Environmental Health. The cost per meal for the different senior centers varies widely from ~$5.00/meal to ~$8.00/meal. Cost control is a continuing focus in the acquisition of foods for preparation. However, one senior center was proud of the fact they were able to purchase 2-year-old frozen ground beef at 10 cents per pound. This raised concerns by the Grand Jury as - per the Department of Agriculture web site –at that age, the meat is fine to eat if kept at 0°F or below but may be of zero nutritional value. Per AAA requirements, meals should be 33% of the Dietary Reference Index (DRI) and comply with the most current Dietary Guidelines for Americans (DGA).

The safety of the delivered foods should be of concern. The temperature of the delivered meals should be at 135F° (minimum) for hot foods and 40F° (maximum) for cold foods. The temperatures of meals delivered to MOW participants, for the most part, are not being taken. In most cases, when food temperature is checked, it is when the meal is ready to go out for delivery, not when the last meal delivered hours later. This is also a concern in that Lake County Department of Environmental Health (LCEH) stated meals should be delivered within 30 minutes of leaving the senior centers. The Grand Jury realizes this is impossible to comply with because of the geographical size of our county and the lack of enough drivers to deliver meals.

Environmental Health inspections at the senior centers are not being conducted on a timely basis. Lakeport senior center has not been inspected in over one year. For the other centers, it has been nearly one year since their last inspection. The Grand Jury noticed, at the Lakeport senior center, a violation of Code 30 of the California Health and Safety Code (CHSC)– that states food is to be stored a minimum of 6" above the floor and covered. The food was on the bottom rack –quite low -on some metal shelving, and the food was not covered. Some senior centers required hairnets to be worn when in the kitchen; however, Environmental Health stated hair pulled back and wearing a hat is also acceptable (Code 25 CHSC).

AAA allots funds to the senior centers based on Units of Service (meals delivered). Service units are figured annually based on the prior three years actuals. Monies cannot be increased for a senior center unless they are taken away from a different center. These funds are not allocated proportionately to the number of meals delivered for that center.

AAA FUNDS

	Units of Service (Meals Delivered)	State	Federal	FED OTO	NSIP	Total	$/Unit
Clearlake (Highlands)	25,988	$4,284	$29,173	$504	$16,513	$50,474	$1.94
Clearlake Oaks (Live Oak)	7,350	$1,730	$11,782	$203	$6,669	$20,384	$2.77
Middletown	7,802	$1,686	$11,482	$198	$6,499	$19,865	$2.55
Lakeport	23,331	$13,044	$88,833	$1,534	$50,281	$153,692	$6.59

("Lakeport" includes services to Kelseyville and Lucerne Senior Centers and MOW deliveries into those and other more limited central/north county areas. "Middletown" includes deliveries to Cobb and Hidden Valley Lake.)

FED OTO – "One Time Only Funds – Titles III and VII federal funds allocated to the AAA in a State fiscal year that are not expended or encumbered for services and administration provided by June 30 of that fiscal year as reported to the California Department of Aging (CDA) in the Area Plan Financial Closeout Report. Federal funds were recovered from an AAA as a result of fiscal audit determination and resolution by CDA. Supplemental program funds allocated by the Administration of Aging to CDA as a result of the federal reallotment process."

NSIP –" Nutrition Services Incentive Program – The program whose purpose is to provide incentives to encourage and reward effective performance by AAA's in the efficient delivery of nutritious meals to older individuals. The program consists of a cash allotment based on the ratio of the number of meals served by each Planning and Service Area (PSA) compared to the total number of meals served in the State in the prior-prior federal fiscal year".

Accolades have been given to MOW by county officials including the Board of Supervisors declaring March 2019 as "Meals On Wheels Month" in Lake County (**see Exhibit 4**). However, not one representative from any of the Senior Centers was in attendance for the BOS presentation including one of the directors who had delayed a scheduled interview with the Grand Jury on the rationale of attending that meeting. Several other directors indicated they were unaware in advance that this presentation would be made. In this proclamation it is stated "over 220,000 are provided annually to home bound seniors." In another forum, a county official states "Lakeport Senior Center pushes out over 500 Meals On Wheels each day." These numbers of MOW are approximately 60% higher and 48% higher (respectively) than the maximum possible annual estimates based on individual center numbers provided to AAA and submitted to the state.

Active Clients - March 2019

Provided to AAA from the Senior Centers

CENTER	MOW Clients	Meals Delivered/year *
Clearlake (Highlands)	39	13,650
Clearlake Oaks (Live Oak)	64	22,400
Lakeport	242	84,700
Middletown	39	13,650
Total	384	134,400

- Based on 50 weeks/year with five hot meals and two frozen meals per week per client.

FINDINGS:

F1. The senior centers are individual 501c (non-profit) organizations; therefore, there is no coordination between the centers for purchasing food. This may contribute to higher food costs.

F2. The temperatures of the vast majority of meals being delivered are not being monitored. The Senior Centers are unable to verify that the temperature of these meals meet requirements (135°F or above and at 41°F or below) per the CRFD Article 2 Section 113996.

F3. Environmental Health Inspections are not being executed according to the required schedule. Violations of CHSC are being missed.

F4. Funds are not proportionally allocated by AAA to the Senior Centers based on meals delivered. The dollar amount per meal ranges from $1.94 to $6.59.

F5. There are not enough drivers delivering meals. It can take some drivers 2 hours to deliver their meals.

F6. There is inconsistent compensation for MOW drivers and the senior centers. Some drivers receive $0 (they may take a meal) and other drivers receive $20/day.

F7. Governmental proclamations and social media posts by government officials contain significantly incorrect numbers regarding service by MOW.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

R1. The directors of each senior center that prepare meals should meet once per month to compare purchases to determine if combined buying may reduce costs. (F1)

R2. Meal temperatures should be taken throughout the deliverer's route. MOW participants should be told to re-heat their meal before eating. If the meal is not going to be eaten immediately, the meal then should be placed in the refrigerator. The senior centers can make a handout and distribute it to each participant to comply with this part of the recommendation. (F2)

R3. Environmental Health should adhere to the expected number of inspections each year for each senior center. (F3)

R4. The Area Agency on Aging (AAA) should re-evaluate how funds are being distributed to the senior centers for MOW. (F4)

R5. Compensation needs to be given and/or increased for the MOW drivers. (F5, F6)

R6. Governmental officials should ensure that numbers are correct before issuing proclamations and postings. (F7)

REQUEST FOR RESPONSES:

Pursuant to Penal Code §933(c), the following response is *required.*

- Board of Supervisors (R6) (90 days)

The Grand Jury *invites* the following individuals to respond:

- Director of Clearlake Senior Center (R1, R2, R5) (60 days)
- Director of Clearlake Oaks Senior Center (R1, R2, R5) (60 days)
- Director of Lakeport Senior Center (R1, R2, R5) (60 days)
- Director of Middletown Senior Center (R1, R2, R5) (60 days)
- Director of Environmental Health (R3) (60 days)
- Program coordinator, Area Agency on Aging (R4) (60 Days)

"Aging is All About Living"

A C4A Proposal: Modernizing the Older Californians Act

The California Association of Area Agencies on Aging (C4A) is a nonprofit organization representing California's 33 area agencies on aging. The association is an advocate for meeting the needs of seniors and adults with disabilities, with the purpose to implement the provisions and intent of the Older Americans Act and the Older Californians Act.

Area Agencies on Aging, established by the federal Older Americans Act in 1965, receive federal, state, and local funds to contract with local organizations for service to seniors. There are 33 area agencies on aging designated by the California Department on Aging as the local Planning Service Agencies.

The Mello-Granlund Older Californians Act (AB2800), signed into law in 1996, moved the primary focus for the delivery of services from the state to the local level. It identified area agencies on aging as the local units in California to administer programs in compliance with the Older Americans Act, the Older Californians Act, and other applicable regulations.

California's area agencies on aging incorporated in 1979 as the California Association of Area Agencies on Aging – a statewide, nonprofit organization advocating for seniors and persons with disabilities.

(URL www.c4a.info)

Exhibit 1

Exhibit 2

Middletown Senior Center

May Menu

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
		1 Mac & Cheese Coleslaw Cantaloupe	2 Club Wrap Potato Salad Watermelon	3 Orange Chicken Veggie Rice Fresh Fruit
6 Chicken Alfredo Zucchini Caesar Salad* French Bread	7 Beef Stew Biscuits Cottage Cheese w/Cantaloupe	8 Roasted Pork Loin Scalloped Potatoes Broccoli salad	9 Chicken Salad Sandwich Macaroni Salad Spinach Salad	10 Cheese Burger w/trimmings Coleslaw Oven Fries Cottage Cheese with Pears
13 Seafood Salad French Bread Fruit Salad	14 Baked Chicken W/Caesar Salad Cantaloupe	15 Cabbage Rolls Whole Wheat Roll Watermelon	16 BBQ Pork Sandwich Sweet Potato Fries Spinach Salad	17 Green Chicken Enchilada Casserole Corn & Beans Garden Salad
20 Chicken Caesar Salad Wheat roll Orange Wedge	21 Korean Beef Over Rice Cole Slaw Honey Dew Melon	BIRTHDAY LUNCH 22 Meatloaf Mashed Potatoes Carrots Broccoli Salad	23 Ham Au Gratin Potatoes Spinach Salad Orange Wedge	24 Hot Turkey Sandwich Mashed Potatoes Green Salad
27 CLOSED Memorial Day	28 Teriyaki Chicken Green Salad Fruit Salad	29 Beef Stroganoff Broccoli/Pepper Medley Fruit Salad	30 Veggie Frittata Biscuits and Gravy Fruit Salad	31 Tuna Salad Sandwich Garden Salad

Milk, tea, coffee, fruit and whole grain bread offered at all times.
Meals served Monday - Friday at 12 Noon. Closed holidays.
Call for reservations 987-3113
Meals subject to change without notice.

Exhibit 3

AREA AGENCY ON AGING OF LAKE & MENDOCINO COUNTIES

Form # AAA 111 (11/13)

☐ New Client
☐ Annual Reassessment
☐ Change in Information
Date entered in Q: _____

Home–Delivered Meals Assessment Form

First Name	MI	Last Name	Today's Date

Email:

HDM Eligibility – *Use "AAA 110 Client Intake Form"*	
Initial determination of eligibility determined by telephone?	☐ No ☐ Yes
First date of meal delivery:	
Visit Location: ☐ Home Visit ☐ Other _____	

ADL's - Activities of Daily Living *(assess yearly for C2 clients)*	1-Independent	3-Some Human Help	5-Dependent	Declined to State
Eating - Feed self from a plate or drink from a cup				
Dressing - Select, put on, or take off appropriate attire.				
Bathing - Take a bath or shower, wash hair, brush teeth, etc.				
Toileting - Use toilet, cleanse self, etc.				
Transferring - Get in/out of a bed or chair.				
Walking - Walk or climb stairs				
IADL's - Instrumental Activities of Daily Living *(assess yearly for C2 clients)*				
Light Housework - light housekeeping, like dusting or sweeping.				
Laundry	(No Longer Required)			
Shopping - shop for food and other things.				
Meal Preparation - prepare meals.				
Transportation - use public transportation or drive beyond walking distances.				
Using Telephone - answer the telephone or make a phone call.				
Medication Management - take medications.				
Money Management - handle money, like keeping track of bills.				
Heavy Housework - heavy housecleaning, like yard work and laundry.				

Provided	**Notes**
Introductory letter Reheating instruction Non-response procedure Senior I&A brochure Staff contact information Newsletter/menu Emergency response Release form Grievance procedure	

Termination

Termination date:

Reason for Termination (Disposition): ☐ Deceased ☐ Institutionalization
☐ Moved Out of Service Area ☐ No Longer Desires Services ☐ On Hold
☐ On Waiting List ☐ Other Reason ☐ Past Active ☐ Service No Longer Needed

For follow-up	**Staff Signature**

DATE: _____

HDM INITIAL ELIGIBILITY DOCUMENTATION

CALLERS NAME: _____ PHONE # _____

ALTERNATE # _____ RELATIONSHIP TO CLIENT: _____

IS THE CALLER THE EMERGENCY CONTACT? Yes / No - If not, who?

_____

NAME OF EMERGENCY CONTACT **PHONE #**

***CLIENT*:** _____ ☐ **New Client** ☐ **Update**

_____ **HDM TO START**_____ **Extra Meals NEEDED? Yes/No #** _____

DOB

_____

Address **City** **Phone**

_____

Mailing Address

Does the client live alone? Yes / No ---- If not, does the caregiver need a meal? Yes / No

_____

Directions or additional information (codes to enter, knock then enter, hard of hearing, etc)

Is there a dog at the home? Yes / No --- If so, inside or outside dog? _____

_____

Name of pet **breed** **friendly?** **jumps up?** **bites?**

ADL'S AND IADL'S

Do you drive?

Check all that apply and give brief explanation Requires assistance with**:**

☐ **Feeding** ☐ **Dressing** ☐ **Bathing** ☐ **Transferring** ☐ **Toileting** ☐ **walking** ☐ **Meal prep**
☐ **Housework** ☐ **Manage meds** ☐ **Laundry** ☐ **Transportation** ☐ **Shopping** ☐ **Telephone**

NUTRITION RISK ASSESSMENT

☐ Recent injury _____
☐ Recent hospitalization/surgery _____
☐ Eat fewer than 2 meals a day
☐ Not always enough money to buy food
☐ Take 3 or more prescribed or over-the-counter medications per day.
☐ Cognitive functioning

Exhibit 4

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF LAKE,
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Proclamation

Designating the Month of March 2019 as Meals on Wheels Month in Lake County

WHEREAS, over 220,000 meals are provided annually to homebound seniors in Lake County, so they may live independently in their homes for as long as possible; and

WHEREAS, the loyal volunteers who prepare and deliver Meals on Wheels provide consistent and dependable meal delivery and daily wellness checks for Lake County seniors in need; and

WHEREAS, the senior centers and their program partners bring together the community, local businesses, and community organizations for the purpose of providing nutrition, hope and independence to homebound seniors and those in need.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Lake does hereby declare the month of March, 2019 as **Meals on Wheels Month** in Lake County, and recognizes the vital role of senior centers and community volunteers in addressing the needs of seniors in Lake County.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 12th day of March, 2019.

ATTEST: CAROL J. HUCHINGSON — COUNTY OF LAKE

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

By: _____ _____

Deputy — Chair, Board of Supervisors

LAKE COUNTY'S FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICTS*: KEEP CALM AND CARRY ON*

SUMMARY

The financial challenges from rising labor costs, dropping ambulance revenues, and stagnant or – especially after recent devastating fires – declining tax income facing Lake County's fire protection districts (FPDs) have been substantial. A central strategy in pulling the districts out of their fiscal doldrums has been parcel-tax hikes. Three of the County's six FPDs were recently able to pass a parcel tax increase in an attempt to provide a reliable source of revenue for their cash-strapped stations, to retain fire-fighting personnel, and to maintain their 24-hour ambulance services. One district was unable to effect passage of a similar ballot measure and plans to make another attempt. The remaining two districts also face challenging financial straits and inevitably will look to district property owners to increase their parcel taxes. However, this benefit alone will not solve the districts' budgetary shortfalls, as other factors are also at play, some reflecting long-term trends and demanding long-term solutions.

METHODOLOGY

The Grand Jury interviewed officers and/or Board of Directors members of each of the six districts, in addition to CalFire personnel. The Grand Jury also attended County Board of Supervisors meetings and Lake County Fire Chiefs' Association meetings. Further, the Grand Jury tracked articles on similar fire-tax and revenue issues in other California counties. As the Lake Pillsbury FPD had not been reviewed by the Grand Jury, three visits were made there so as to better understand its special challenges.

DISCUSSION

The staff and volunteer firefighters of all six FPDs have been intimately involved in responding to the conflagrations affecting Lake County these past five years. (**Exhibit 1**) The public outpouring of support is widely evidenced, from ubiquitous roadside signs of gratitude to photographs of elementary school students' hand-written notes accompanying boxes of candy dropped off at fire stations. As a result, Lake County taxpayers are likely more disposed than some State residents to translate gratitude into a local district fire tax.

THE **STATE FIRE TAX** AND ITS UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCES

The State Responsibility Area (SRA) Fire Prevention Fee was enacted in July, 2011. The law approved the new annual Fire Prevention Fee to pay for fire prevention services within the SRA, which included all of Lake County aside from the two cities and Federal land. The fee was applied to all habitable structures within the SRA. Effective July 1, 2013, the fee was levied at the rate of $152.33 per habitable structure (defined as a building that could be occupied for residential use). Owners of habitable

structures who were also within the boundaries of a local fire protection agency received a reduction of $35 per habitable structure, reducing the tax to $117.33. In Lake County, property owners paid both the state fee and their preexisting local fire-district parcel tax.

This fee was intended to fund a variety of fire prevention services in the SRA, such as fuel reduction activities to lessen risk/impact of wildfire on communities and evacuation routes. Other activities included defensible space inspections, fire prevention engineering, emergency evacuation planning, fire prevention education, fire hazard severity mapping, implementation of the State and local Fire Plans, and fire-related law enforcement activities such as arson investigation.

However, this fee was controversial and widely reviled as a "tax" by many lawmakers, landowners, and taxpayer groups, who made many attempts to repeal it. As part of a political compromise, the fee ended up being suspended by Gov. Brown in July, 2017 until 2031.

During the period the fee was in effect, the State's wildfire season increased in length, and the fires grew larger and more deadly. While Lake County's fire districts had some income from their preexisting parcel taxes, the economic impact from the Valley, Rocky, Jerusalem, Clayton, Pawnee, Sulphur, and River-Ranch Fires in 2015-18 was substantial. Not only did the districts' budgets decrease from lost property taxes, but reimbursement for emergency expenditures from FEMA through the State has been delayed and/or inconsistent, depending in part upon whether a "federal disaster" was or was not declared. (Finally, in June, 2019, a federal disaster aid bill that contains monies for Lake County was passed by Congress and signed by the President.) As well, local fire officials were concerned both that many people erroneously assumed that the SRA fee went to fire districts and also that the State fee failed to provide money for non-profit fire-safe councils that are active in wildfire risk reduction. Of the $80 million raised annually, not one cent went to putting more boots on the ground.

An unintended consequence of the SRA fee was the undermining of local fire districts' ability to increase their own funds for fire protection and prevention efforts, even as the State's long drought has greatly increased the risk of catastrophic fires. Winning over voters for a higher parcel tax has been a challenge, plus the fact that a two-thirds vote for this type of "special tax" is necessary for passage. Cities and counties can pass general-purpose tax measures – those not dedicated to a specific purpose - on a majority vote, but fire districts need super-majority backing for parcel-tax measures, as do cities and counties. In addition, most of the SRA and overlapping fire districts are in parts of California where voters are more conservative and skeptical of taxes to begin with. While the SRA was in effect, at least 32 local fire-tax measures in California were on the ballot, and 21 failed.

The outcome for Lake County's fire districts' parcel-tax measures has been a bit more encouraging, despite the need for a two-thirds majority.

- In March, 2017, the measure for Lake County Fire Protection District, amounting to c. $120/year for a single-family home, was approved by a margin of 11 votes (67% vs 33%).
- In April, 2018, a measure for the Northshore Fire Protection District was defeated (54% vs 46%).
- In November, 2018, a measure for the South Lake County Fire Protection District was approved (68% vs 32%).
- In May, 2019, a measure for the Lakeport Fire Protection District was approved (74% vs. 26%).

BENEFIT UNITS - ONE REASON FOR VOTER CONFUSION

Parcel tax elections are held when a taxing district wants to raise revenues through imposing an additional tax called a parcel tax. These taxes are a form of special property tax that must be paid by the owners of parcels, or units, of real estate. However, unlike standard property taxes, which are based on the value of the property, a parcel tax is an assessment based on the characteristics of the parcel. These assessments can include taxing a parcel based on square footage or by dwelling unit, or the tax may be a flat rate per parcel. (An explanation of benefit assessments is attached as **Exhibit 2.**)

Lake County voters understandably appeared to be more than a little perplexed when attempting to decipher the amount of tax increase the fire district parcel-tax measures were proposing. The ballot language referred to the tax's being levied on each parcel of real property at an assigned rate ($4, $6.14, or $10 for the four districts recently having elections) for a certain number of "units of benefit." A "unit of benefit" takes into account the need for fire district resources – such as firefighters, medical response, equipment, and water volume - required by different properties in the event of a fire. A voter then had to search out prior to the election how many "benefit units" applied to bare land of different sizes, a single family residence, a commercial building, or some other improvement.

As the most recent example, the Lakeport Fire District included on its website a breakdown of the annual cost to property owners (**Exhibit 3**). A single family home was worth 30 benefit units at $6.14/unit, so the tax will be $184.20/year. An apartment building would have 15 benefit units attributed to each apartment, at a cost of $92.10 per year per apartment. Vacant land of 0-5 acres is worth 10 benefit units or $61.40 annually. A commercial building's fee is based on square footage to a maximum of $921 annually. The amount of calculation required by property owners was confusing and frustrating. As another example, the South Lake County Fire Protection District tax was $10 per benefit unit, and a single family home was worth 20 benefit units, so the

parcel tax is $200. Comments on Facebook reflected uncertainly and annoyance with these variable rates.

ADDITIONAL PROBLEMS COMMON TO FPDs

1. Medical Calls: True in all of the FPDs, upwards of 80% of their routine calls are for medical-related events – vehicle accidents, acute illness, toxic spills, technical rescue, miscellaneous injuries – rather than for structure or wildland fires. At one point in Lake County there were three different private providers that offered Emergency Medical Services (EMS) transport, but they ultimately were unable to sustain viable businesses and withdrew from the market. The failure of the last provider in 2004, upon 15 minutes' notice, resulted in local fire districts' having emergently to bridge the gaps in service.

   In the longer run, extensive EMT and paramedic training has become mandatory in addition to the extensive annual fire-fighting training. Equipping Advanced Life Support ambulances also requires extra expenditures. When Lake County's two hospitals modified their status to Critical Access, the number of beds, services, and medical providers were downsized, making transport to other facilities with a higher level of care an integral part of ambulance services, either emergently or after stabilization. However, these inter-facility transports are time- and personnel-intensive. Billing for ambulance services, therefore, while essential for added income, can be fraught due to both unreliability of third-party billers and the low reimbursement rates by insurers. Money is lost on every 9-1-1 ambulance call, as the return averages about 20-30 cents on the dollar. Some Districts outside Lake County, in an attempt to increase cost recovery, have started billing for "pre-stabilization fees," in addition to the charges for ambulance services, as seen in **Exhibit 4**.

2. Pensions: The unfunded liability of retirement payments to the California Public Employees Retirement System (CalPERS) is unpredictable and changes year- by-year. The payments are regulated by a formula set by the State. At least one district has considered a pension obligation bond to stabilize retirement payouts. These bonds are a controversial financing maneuver that allows state and local governments, including special districts, to "wipe out" unfunded pension liabilities by borrowing against future tax revenue, then investing the proceeds in equities or other high-yield investments. The idea is that the investments will produce a higher return than the interest rate on the bond, thereby earning money for the pension fund. It's a gamble, but one that is understandably appealing.

3. Dispatch: In March, 2018, fire and emergency medical dispatch services were transferred from the Sheriff's Office to the CalFire Emergency Command Center in St. Helena. The decision was made by the Fire Chiefs Association with the goal of dispatching calls to all FPDs from a single center with one frequency and with computer-aided dispatch (CAD) software. The Command Center is staffed at the highest management levels. CalFire is able to track and coordinate deployment of units, which information is sent to the State for reimbursement purposes. One initial issue that arose was some of the Command Center's dispatchers' lack of familiarity with Lake County roads, and several instances were reported of first responders' being sent to the wrong location. This issue seems to have largely resolved, although at least one district is considering re-contracting with the Sheriff's Office.

4. Volunteers: Attracting volunteers is always a challenge. In part, millennials may be disinclined to relocate to a poor rural county. Also, the level of required training has increased, with a minimum qualification of Firefighter-1 and paramedic training. Even committed volunteers usually have a regular job and are not always available to respond to emergency calls.

5. Fire Mitigation: Fire prevention and mitigation efforts must receive greater funding. As one interviewee remarked, "the Valley Fire rewrote the book of fire behavior" and has demanded not only alterations in fire-fighting techniques but also has renewed interest in mitigation efforts such as with fire-breaks and controlled burns. Three districts cited the "red tape" inherent in the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) regulations, which they feel "ties their hands" in conducting prescribed burns. Fuel breaks are another mitigation technique. With the help of CalFire and the Conservation Camp, shaded fuel breaks have been constructed in several high-risk areas, such as around the Rivieras and on Cobb. CalFire has also initiated defensible-space inspections.

The County has created the Community Risk Reduction Authority via a Joint Powers Agreement with five of the six FPDs (Lake Pillsbury FPD was omitted). The County has also passed the Hazardous Vegetation Abatement Ordinance. Approximately 1500 property inspections have been conducted and 417 letters were sent to property owners in June, 2019 regarding removal of hazardous vegetation. Some initial respondents have reflected frustration about the short deadline, uncertainty about where to clear their land, and inability to act due to being elderly, disabled, or poor. The likelihood of effecting total compliance this fire season is doubtful, but it is a good start. Additionally, the fuel reduction has to be not only achieved, but also maintained long-term to be effective.

6. Old Equipment: The districts' fleets are aging, and replacement plans require long-term estimates of prospective growth within each district to permit projected parcel-tax income that will permit modernization.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE INDIVIDUAL DISTRICTS

Primary revenue sources for the FPDs include property and parcel taxes, service charges (e.g., burn permits, building inspections, plan reviews, ambulance services), funds and grants from state and federal government agencies and non-profits, development impact fees, sale of equipment and property, and fundraising events by firefighter associations or auxiliaries. The districts' geographic areas are large, though the population base is variable**. Exhibit 5**.

1. Kelseyville FPD: This District provides most of the inter-facility transport (IFT) out-of-county, which pays well because of the volume. The crews for these transports are not on-duty firefighters. Due to the IFTs, the District is heavier on staff than others, with c. 65% of its budget spent on salaries. The district has the highest volume of medical calls – c. 90%. The Board recently changed its bylaws to prevent relatives from exerting influence over department personnel issues. The Firefighters' Association raises almost $18,000 annually from the Pear Festival and the silent auction. Personal protective equipment (PPE) was removed from the volunteers in late 2018 because it was not OSHA-compliant, and the District was unable to purchase new PPEs. Lack of PPEs meant that the volunteers could not undergo live-fire training. Approval of the Lake County Community Risk Reduction Authority will enable fire mitigation in the Rivieras and Buckingham.

2. Lake County Fire Protection District: This District serves the most populous area of the county in its 165 square miles areas and responds to more than 5,200 calls for service annually, compared with c. 850/year when the current chief started in 2012. Prior to passage of the parcel tax in 2017, the District's shortfall was c. $50,000-$75,000 per year. After passage of the tax measure, the department was able to restaff its station in Lower Lake. One frustration is that c. 60% of the property owners in the District are absentee landlords. An ongoing concern is the low revenue from ambulance transports. The District recently billed c. $7M and recovered c $1.1M, based on the payor mix. Another concern is the projected PG&E power outages and how the District can provide for its medically-fragile residents.

   The commitment of the FPD firefighters and volunteers to the welfare of its community residents was clearly evident to the Grand Jury. The District

recognizes that it cannot change the demographics, but it can "do what the community needs." One example is the acquisition of an ambulance that can transport morbidly obese residents. Singular among the districts was the coordination between the Adventist Hospital, the Police Department, Fire Department, and Behavioral Health to administer to the "frequent flyers" – the heavy utilizers of 9-1-1 services. Through this "Project Restoration," one Fire Department staff member follows up with a needy resident after hospital discharge to inspect the home environment and assess ongoing health needs. A Behavioral Health worker can be called to the scene of a 9-1-1 caller to evaluate what the caller needs so as not to necessitate transportation to the hospital. As well, in 2019, the District partnered with the Rotary, the two hospitals, and the Konocti Unified School District to initiate a "Stop the Bleed" program that would place a first-aid kit for gunshot and stab wounds in all 230 classrooms. The fire department will provide training to the faculty and staff at each school. Also in 2019, the Lake County Volunteer Firefighters Association raised $10,000 during its Fill-the-Boot-Drive to benefit victims of the Camp Fire in Paradise.

3. Lake Pillsbury FPD: An all-volunteer department provides services to approximately 300-500 year-around residents in the c. 18,000 acre district, mostly comprised of federal land. **Exhibit 6.** Peak Summer population in the resorts around the Lake, however, may reach 12,000-15,000. The district's budget of c. $18,000 is funded primarily through a parcel-tax rate that was set in 2001 - $60 per improved lot and $18 per vacant parcel, no matter the size. In June, 2019, however, the received tax income had dropped to c. $16,200, making evident to the department and the Board of Directors that the tax rates must be increased and that a ballot measure for a parcel tax must be considered. In addition, not all properties that could potentially be taxed - such as the cabins in the Forest and some homes at Blue Slides - are currently being taxed. Close coordination with the County administrative staff will be necessary to address these tax issues.

   Lake Pillsbury FPD is also facing a number of additional challenges. The Grand Jury recognizes that, admirably, Lake Pillsbury FPD been doing more with less for many years and has maintained an impressively strong community commitment.

   a. The number one challenge is its distance from Lake County's population centers and its limited road access, which isolates the department from rapid law-enforcement response and active ongoing interaction and support from the other FPDs. (Their two ambulances, however, were passed on from the Kelseyville FPD.)

b. As the District is surrounded by the Mendocino National Forest, the department interacts primarily with the US Forest Service and not CalFire. However, the Forest Service is not an "all risk" agency, and their firefighters do not respond to medical calls, motor vehicle accidents, or structure fires – plus their hours are 9-6.
c. The District is off the grid, requiring reliance on solar, propane, and gas generators. The two fire stations have no electric power, phone service, or computers.
d. AT&T phone service fails frequently and needs expansion, as numerous cabins are without phones and cannot call 9-1-1 or receive a reverse 9-1-1 call ordering evacuation.
e. Their fire-fighting equipment and engines are aged. The cabs of their engines are not enclosed. Their pontoon boat has no engine. Most of their personal protective gear is outdated. Not all firefighters have been equipped with fire shelters. They have been unable to purchase fire-hose testers.
f. Due to deficient repeater availability, they are not connected to the Sheriff's Dispatch Center, so 9-1-1 calls are routed first to St. Helena (CalFire) and then to Howard Forest (US Forest Service), resulting in delays of 10-15 minutes. (Cf. The National Fire Protection Association's recommended 60-second standard for dispatch time.)
g. Not all of the firefighters have AMR training. The personnel can provide only basic, not advanced, life support and thus are limited to transporting patients to ambulances from other districts or to medical helicopters. Their ambulances are equipped for only basic life support (BLS). This is the only FPD in the County that does not charge for ambulance transport, because it cannot do so with only a BLS capability. The potential financial benefits of qualifying to do so remain to be explored.
h. The roads into the Lake are not maintained during the Winter months. During inclement weather, when Reach or CalStar helicopters cannot fly, the extended transport time on rutted roads compromises patient safety.
i. The District has not applied for any of the Homeland Security Association Assistance-to-Firefighters-Grants that might assist with safety training and equipment procurement. [https://www.usfa.fema.gov/grants/]
j. Fewer than half of the firefighters and Board members actually live in the District full-time.
k. Neither the firefighters' association nor the Board of Directors met legal formation requirements until this past year.
l. The District has to pay a minimum wage in order for the firefighters to qualify for Workers' Compensation coverage. The firefighters, including the Chief, are now paid $10 per call and $10 per training session, which many

consider an insult. The Board is considering raising the stipend based on merit.

m. The one gas station at Soda Creek charges $6/gal, so fuel usually has to be purchased in Potter Valley or elsewhere and trucked in.
n. The Fire Chief of 11 years resigned in April, 2019.

The good news is that a highly qualified interim Fire Chief has recently been appointed who has been with the Department as a Captain for many years and who is strongly committed to keeping the wheels from coming off after several recent serious setbacks. For example, his recent discussion with officers of the Lake Area Rotary Club Association (LARCA) resulted in their donating $15,000 to make district firefighter safety and preparedness a priority, such as purchasing PPEs and shelters and a new wildland hose. Through auctions, the District has recently been able to obtain a Chief's vehicle and a 1988 Ford 550 firetruck in good condition. He and the Board are actively and cooperatively working on strategic planning and discussing fund-raising activities both to raise revenue and also to cement community bonds and recruit volunteers for support activities. He is also reintegrating with the Lake County Fire Chiefs Association, as cohesive and mutually supportive a group as the Grand Jury has encountered this year. The Association is working on the installation of a repeater on Goat Mountain that is expected to benefit communications with - and within - the Lake Pillsbury FPD.

4. Lakeport FPD: This is the only FPD Board of Directors in the County that is still appointed rather than elected. (FPD Boards ultimately decide whether the seats should be filled by election or appointment.) The County appoints three members, and the City of Lakeport appoints two members. In late Summer of 2018, concerns about the appointment process came to light just as the District's financial crisis resulted in a new budget that required laying off three full-time firefighters and three part-time firefighters, leaving only two firefighters on-duty at a time. One effect of the layoffs was increased reliance on ambulance assistance from the neighboring Kelseyville FPD, which delay in response time raised patient-safety concerns by the Sutter Lakeside Hospital CEO.
In addition to layoffs, other cost-saving measures included the Board members' eliminating their $100/meeting stipend and the Chief and his assistant's taking a 7% pay cut and capping their health insurance. Shortly thereafter, two Board members resigned, and, in February, 2019, the Fire Chief resigned. The interim Chief has recognized and expressed the need to restore both stability to the department as it struggles financially and also restore essential services to the community that the residents expect. The Board has tabled the idea of selling its station in Finley, which currently is used as a food distribution center by the

Gleaners. If fire equipment were assigned there, the improved Insurance Services Office (ISO) rating possibly could reduce neighboring homeowners' fire insurance rates. (The ISO ratings are on a scale of 1-10, with one being the highest. Only 19 of 979 California fire agencies are rated at 1.)
Decreased revenue from ambulance services was cited as having been a major blow to department finances, as, in good years, ambulance billing produced about half of the department's income. The complexities of the district's ambulance billing is a case in point. For a number of years, the District used a North Bay EMS billing company, but, after it was bought out by an international firm, numerous billing errors resulted in the District's having to issue refunds. In January, 2018, the District switched to the Nevada County Fire District as a billing partner, but that district soon dropped ambulance billing as a revenue source, thereby leaving the Lakeport FPD with outstanding accounts-receivable and declining cash flow. Whether each FPD should train an in-house biller remains to be explored.

On a positive note, the State issued a legislative resolution in April, 2019 honoring the Department's 125 years of service to the community. The special parcel tax election in May, 2019 passed with the required two-thirds majority, which will enable the district to rehire the laid-off firefighters, maintain and upgrade its equipment, and rebuild its reserve funds.

5. Northshore FPD: This District was formed in 2006 through the consolidation of the four Northshore districts. It is the largest in the County at 356 square miles and seven stations, and 90% of the District extends deep into the Mendocino National Forest. It also provides the backup for the Lake Pillsbury FPD and helps the Williams Fire Department with medical calls in Colusa County. The District has a fully functioning dive team for rescue and recovery and a boat for rescue that can also provide 500 gal/minute for fires on or near the water. CalFire responds to all calls in the Clearlake Oaks area during fire season.
Finding paramedics and retaining volunteers has been difficult. This is the lowest-paying district in the County. The Mendo Complex fires hurt the District, and this is the first year it has had to dip into its reserves. Although CalFire has reimbursed the District for related Mendo Complex expenditures, FEMA has yet to pay anything because the disaster aid bill has just been passed by Congress. The primary revenue sources are from ambulance billing, a MOU with the Habematolel Pomo, and the existing parcel taxes of $45-60. Rather than fundraising primarily to generate cash, the District focuses on social interactions and building cohesion within the community. The Wild West Days fundraiser is a community favorite. The Board plans to put another tax measure on the

November, 2019 ballot, this time with a clearer message for the public. A better equipment replacement plan would also be helpful.

6. South Lake County FPD: The third largest FPD at 285 square miles, South Lake County is the only district in the County under contract with CalFire for its operations. With continuing loss of the Geyser's geothermal tax revenue, fiscal constraints caused a reduction in staffing and services within the District in the late 1990s, which resulted in the District's staffing only one station in Middletown, with only one firefighter on duty. In order to provide stability of revenue, the District voted to contract for personnel and management services from CalFire, effective July 1, 2000.

   In 2002, under threat of closure of the Cobb and Hidden Valley stations, with its attendant prolonged emergency response times and adverse effect on homeowner's fire insurance, 80% of District property owners approved a parcel tax to enhance EMS services, which for a single family home was $52.50. However, no cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) was built in. After the Valley Fire in 2015 ravaged Cobb and a large portion of Middletown/Hidden Valley, property tax income dropped significantly, and several planned resort and housing developments were abandoned, resulting in the loss of expected tax revenue for the County generally and the District specifically. Only about 400 of the 1,258 homes lost in the Valley Fire have been rebuilt and only one burned resort has partially reopened. In 2018, the District Board hired a campaign consultant to assist with strategy before placing another parcel tax before the voters. The earlier paramedic tax would be repealed, and the proposed new parcel tax for a single family home would be $200. 68% of the voters passed the measure last November. In July, 2019, the new assessments will kick in, and the revenue will start flowing in January, 2020. This measure does include a COLA. Despite this approval, finances are still squeezed. An additional economic impact on the District has been California's rise in the minimum wage, which has increased the cost of the CalFire contract from c. $2.7M to c. $3.18, for the same services. [This increase came as an economic shock, as CalFire had forgiven the contract costs for two years after the Valley Fire, in 2015-16 and 2016-17.] As always, the cost of retirement pensions is a substantial "unfunded liability." Also, SLFPD responds to emergencies at the Geysers and, for a period, had been paid $300K/year by CalPine. Now, however, CalPine is operating only one geyser and refuses to sign a contract with the District, although the District still responds to calls there.

   Firefighters also respond to fire-rescue calls on the Middletown Rancheria and to vehicle accidents over Rt. 29 into Napa County. The Rancheria has no contractual

obligation to reimburse SLCFPD, but it does make sporadic contributions. Napa County does pay for the District's services.

FINDINGS:

F-1: The public is immensely grateful to their firefighters, but is largely unaware of or underappreciates the economic constraints, understaffing, and other obstacles affecting provision of their fire-rescue functions.

F-2: The services these FPDs provide are insufficiently funded by the existing parcel taxes, though the districts that have recently passed new rates are in better shape than those that have not.

F-3: The "units of benefit" language and variable parcel-tax calculations on the ballot measures are confusing to many voters.

F-4: The parcel-tax rates are inconsistent across even comparable FPDs, while the services rendered are universal.

F-5: Suspension of the "State" fire tax bears reiteration by the FPDs that will be seeking new parcel taxes, as many property owners think it is still in effect.

F-6: The financial benefits of newly-enacted parcel tax rates are not immediate, thus the districts are unable to immediately restore reduced services, which the public also needs to understand.

F-7: COLAs have not been built-into all of the FPD parcel tax measures.

F-8: Fire mitigation efforts keep bumping into State CEQA regulations and are thereby restricted.

F-9: Available state, federal, and non-profit monies often have matching- grant requirements, so the funds are not "free."

F-10: All of the FPDs are seeking the same pot of grant funding, and competition for funding favors large districts in urban areas.

F-11: Not all of the six FPDs have elected BODs.

F-12: Budgetary constraints in some districts have resulted in inadequate PPEs supplied to its district firefighters or volunteers.

F-13: FPDs outside of Lake County have begun augmenting their ambulance bills with "pre-stabilization fees" that would be the equivalent of "professional fees" in medical billing.

F-14: Not all FPDs have any formal relationship with the tribes in their districts.

F-15: The annual budget for the Lake Pillsbury FPD is reduced in part because the District can neither bill for ambulance service nor derive property-tax income from all of its potentially taxable properties.

F-16: The Lake Pillsbury FPD was not included in the Lake County Community Risk Reduction Authority JPA.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

R-1: Long range, the five districts ringing Clear Lake would benefit from developing greater coordination and assessing whether consolidation and regionalization of fire and rescue services in the County would offer greater efficiencies. (F-1, F-2, F-6, F-9, F-10, F-12)

R-2: Proposal of flat-rate parcel taxes would be less confusing to voters than the current "units of benefit" calculations. (F-3, F-4)

R-3: The districts with resident tribal governments should try to establish Memoranda of Understanding regarding adherence to County fire codes, vegetation mitigation, and training of volunteer firefighters. (F-14)

R-4: As all of the FPDs work for the people in their district, the voters should be able to elect their BODs. (F-11)

R-5: The PPEs provided to volunteer and paid firefighters should be the same and should meet current safety standards. (F-12)

R-6: Lake Pillsbury FPD should investigate whether qualifying to bill for ambulance services is realistic and/or feasible. (F-15)

R-7: The FPDs should evaluate whether adding "pre-stabilization fees" to their ambulance billing would increase revenue. (F-13)

R-8: The Lake County Assessor/Recorder and Treasurer/Tax Collector should work closely with the Lake Pillsbury FPD to determine the total number of

taxable properties, with a view toward actively assisting the District with a new parcel-tax measure. (F-15)

R-9: The Lake County Board of Supervisors should consider incorporating Lake Pillsbury FPD into its Risk Reduction Authority JPA along with the other five FPDs.

R-10: The 2019-2020 Grand Jury should follow up with all six FPDs to assess their fiscal health and progress toward internal goals. (F-1 through F-16)

RESPONSES:

Pursuant to Penal Codes sec.933(c), the following response(s) are required:

- Lake County Board of Supervisors (R-9) (90 days)
- Lake County Assessor/Recorder (R-8) – 60 days
- Lake County Assessor/Tax Collector – (R-2, R-8) – 60 days

The following response(s) are *invited*:

- Kelseyville FPD Board of Directors (R-1, R-2, R-3, R-5, R-7) – 60 days
- Lake County FPD Board of Supervisors (R-1, R-2, R-3, R-5, R-7) – 60 days
- Lake Pillsbury FPD Board of Supervisors (R-2, R-5, R-6, R-8, R-9) – 60 days
- Lakeport FPD Board of Supervisors (R-1 through R-5, R-7) – 60 days
- Northshore FPD Board of Supervisors (R-1, R-2, R-3, R-5, R-7) – 60 days
- South Lake County FPD Board of Supervisors (R-1, R-2, R-3, R-5, R-7) – 60 days

Exhibit 1

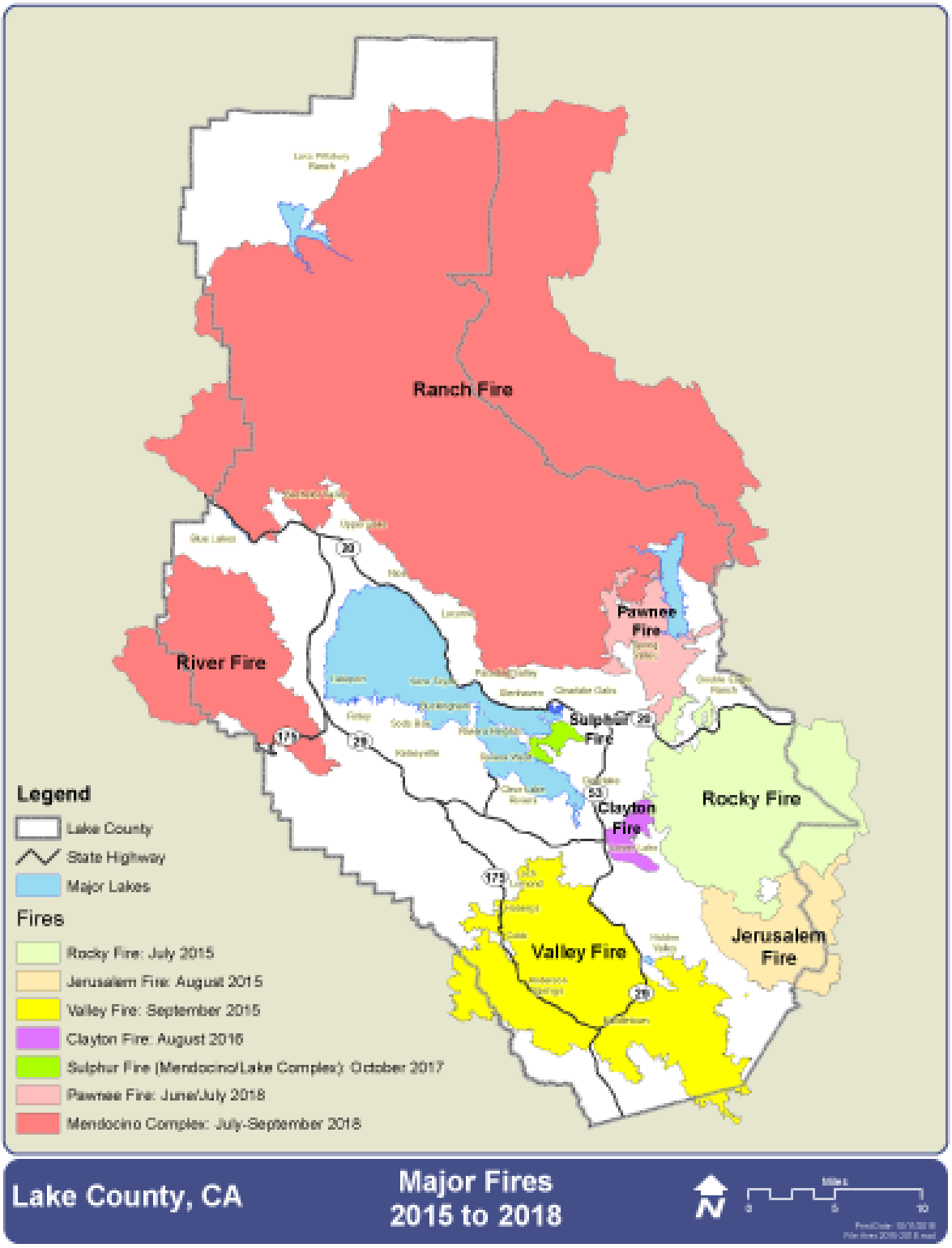
Ranch Fire
River Fire
Pawnee Fire
Sulphur Fire
Clayton Fire
Rocky Fire
Valley Fire
Jerusalem Fire
Legend
Lake County
State Highway
Major Lakes
Fires
Rocky Fire: July 2015
Jerusalem Fire: August 2015
Valley Fire: September 2015
Clayton Fire: August 2016
Sulphur Fire (Mendocino/Lake Complex): October 2017
Pawnee Fire: June/July 2018
Mendocino Complex: July-September 2018
Lake County, CA
Major Fires
2015 to 2018

Exhibit 2

California

PROPERTY TAX INFORMATION

Benefit Assessments are commonly used by local government to pay for fire suppression, sewer, sanitation and flood control services.

What is a Benefit Assessment?

Background

Benefit Assessments are used by local governments to pay the costs of providing fire suppression, flood control and other services to a particular community. These charges are based on the concept of assessing only those properties that directly benefit from the services or improvements financed. Because these charges are based on specific benefit, they are not subject to Proposition 13 limitations.

Specific benefit assessment acts (such as 1982 Act Benefit Assessment Districts and Street Lighting Districts) are covered in separate fact sheets available at www.californiataxdata.com. General features of benefit assessments are discussed below.

Common Types of Benefit Assessments

There are several types of benefit assessments that commonly appear on property tax bills. These assessments allow counties, cities and other agencies to finance the costs of needed services by assessing area property owners. Specific types of benefit assessments include:

- Fire suppression assessments
- Flood control assessments
- Storm drain assessments
- Water assessments
- Sewer assessments
- Sanitation assessments

How is a Benefit Assessment Created?

Prior to creating a new assessment, the city, county, or special district must generate a detailed professional engineer's report outlining the proposed area, proposed project costs, annual cost to each property, and the benefit formula used to determine each property's share of the cost.

Then, all owners of property within the proposed assessment district must be mailed a detailed notice of public hearing and a ballot with which to voice their approval or disapproval of the proposed district at least 45 days prior to the hearing. At the hearing, the governing body of the agency must consider all protests to formation of the district. Assessment district proceedings must be abandoned if a majority of the ballots received by the conclusion of the hearing protest creation of the district. Ballots are weighted according to the proportional financial obligation of the affected property. If the District is approved, the assessment is created and will be billed on the property tax bills each year.

Once an assessment is created, it may be repealed or reduced by popular initiative.

How is the Annual Charge Determined?

By law (Prop. 13), benefit assessments cannot be based on property value. Instead, each assessment district includes a benefit formula and each parcel in the service area is assessed according to the specific benefit it receives from the services and improvements. The charge is calculated based on this formula and placed on the county property tax bill.

Special Requirements for Increased Charges

The amount of the benefit assessment cannot be increased without the consent of the property owners. Prior to increasing the annual assessment, the agency is required to give written notice to all affected property owners, hold a public hearing and an assessment ballot vote. A majority vote is required to approve the rate increase.

How Long Will the Charge Continue?

Most benefit assessments will continue as long as services are provided.

www.californiataxdata.com

100 Pacifica, Suite 470
Irvine, California 92618
Tel 949-789-0660
Fax 949-788-0280

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Exhibit 3

Lakeport Fire District
Measure M Facts

Why is measure M necessary for the Fire District and my safety?
Measure M will restore firefighting and emergency response staffing to safe and adequate levels to the city and unincorporated areas of Lakeport through a parcel tax increase necessary for providing essential emergency services to the community.
When was the last time the fire district had a tax increase?
The tax was first created and passed by voters in March 1997. In the 22 years since its inception, there has never been an increase. In 2018, the district responded to over 3000 emergency calls, which is over 3 times the amount of the 938 calls in 1997, the year the current tax was approved.
How will the community benefit if voters pass measure M?
If Measure M passes, funding will allow the hiring of recently laid off firefighters/paramedic personnel restoring safety and critical emergency services the community deserves. Full staffing will result in reduced response times, saving lives and property.
What happens if Measure M does not pass?
Critical emergency and medical response times will be delayed during multiple emergencies. ISO (Insurance Services Office) ratings will rise due to inadequate staffing. The ISO creates ratings for fire departments and their surrounding communities. The ratings calculate how well-equipped fire departments are to put out fires in the community. In 2020, the ISO will be assessing the Lakeport Fire District. At the current staffing, homeowners and business owners' insurance rates will be increased, if not denied.
What percentage of votes is required to pass Measure M?
The measure must receive a 66.7% YES vote to pass.
What is a unit of benefit, and how much will the total tax cost me?
Units of benefit, or benefit units, are used to "rate" the benefit a particular parcel receives from having fire protection and emergency medical service from the Lakeport Fire Protection District. As such, developed property receives more benefit, and this has more units assigned than underdeveloped property. The proposed Unit of Benefit

cost will be $6.14 per Unit of Benefit. See the following tables for the Total Tax Yearly Costs.

RESIDENTIAL YEARLY COST
Single Family Home
30 units per home
$184.20/year
Mobile Home
30 units per mobile
$184.20/year
Duplex
30 units per living unit
$184.20/year
Multi-Family or Apartments
15 units per living unit
$92.10/year

VACANT LAND YEARLY COST
Vacant 0-5 Acres
10 units per parcel
$61.40/year
5.01-10 Acres
15 units per parcel
$92.10/year
10+ Acres
20 units per parcel
$122.80/year

COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL/INSTITUTIONAL YEARLY COST
0-999 Building Sq. Ft.
50 Units
$307.00/year
1,000 - 4,999 Building Sq. Ft.
70 Units

$429.80/year
5,000 - 9,000 Building Sq. Ft.
100 Units
$614.00/year
10,000+ Building Sq. Ft.
150 Units
$921.00/year

IN ADDITION TO THE ABOVE UNITS, THE FOLLOWING EXTRA UNITS APPLY TO COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL/INSTITUTIONAL PROPERTIES YEARLY COST
More than one business in a building
75 Units per additional business
$460.50/year

Live Fire radio traffic.
UPCOMING EVENTS
7/3: EMS Drill
7/9: District Board Meeting
7/9: District Volunteer Training
7/16: District Volunteer Training
7/16: District Volunteer Training

445 N. Main St., Lakeport, Ca. 95453
lakeportfire@lakeportfire.com
Phone (707) 263-4396
Fax (707) 262-1283

Employee Webmail Login

Copyright 2019 Lakeport Fire District. All Rights Reserved.
Custom Web Site Development by BitSculptor.

Exhibit 4

Rancho Adobe Fire Protection District
11000 Main Street
P.O. Box 1029
Penngrove, CA 94951
707-795-6011

Invoice

Bill To

[redacted]

Description of Services	Date	Invoice #	Terms
Cost Rec. on Vehicle Accident	10/5/2018	18-1504A	Net 15

Services	Hours	Description	Rate	Amount
8/23/2018	1	Fire Captain	32.20	32.20
8/23/2018	1	Fire Engineer	26.25	26.25
8/23/2018	1	Firefighter	21.22	21.22
8/23/2018	1	Type 1 Fire Engine	93.50	93.50
8/23/2018	1	Dispatch Fee	42.00	42.00
8/23/2018	1	Administrative Fee	21.52	21.52

Please remit to above address.

Total $236.69

Note: If you dispute this invoice, you must appeal to the Rancho Adobe Fire Protection District Board of Directors within 14 days of the invoice date.
You may mail your appeal to:
Attn: Appeals – Fire Chief
Rancho Adobe Fire Protection District
P.O. Box 1029
Penngrove, CA 94951

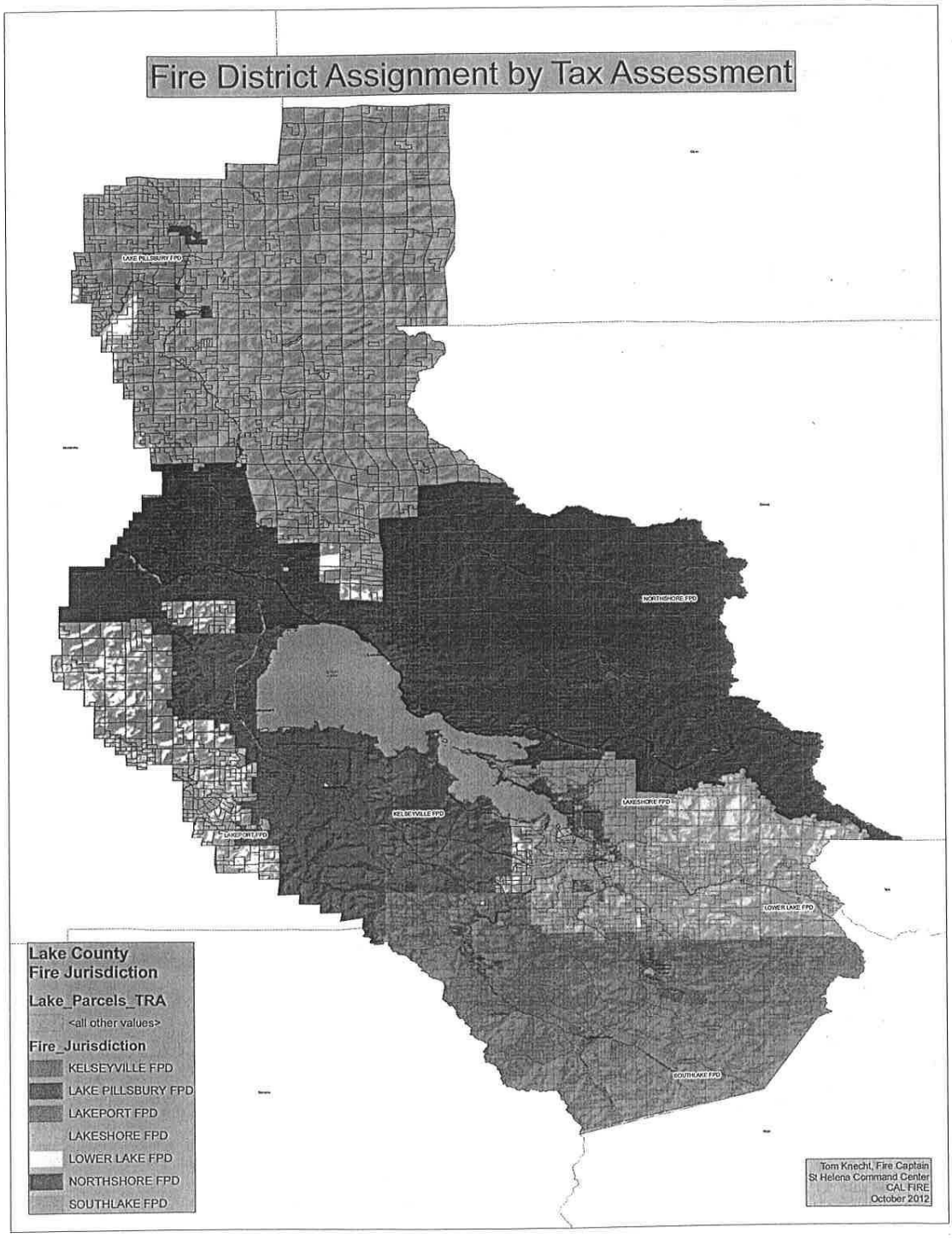
The Fire Chief will review your request for appeal and reply with a written decision.

IF YOU HAVE INSURANCE, YOU SHOULD PAY THIS INVOICE AND SUBMIT IT TO YOUR INSURANCE CARRIER FOR REIMBURSEMENT. THE FIRE DISTRICT DOES NOT DIRECTLY BILL INSURANCE COMPANIES OR PROVIDE CMS-1500 BILLING CODES. INVOICES NOT PAID WITHIN 30 DAYS WILL RESULT IN A LATE FEE OF 15% PER EACH 30 DAYS LATE. ALL INVOICES THAT REMAIN UNPAID 90 DAYS AFTER ORIGINAL INVOICE DATE WILL BE SENT TO COLLECTIONS AND CHARGED AN ADDITIONAL 40% FEE.

(Cost Recovery based upon adoption of Ordinance 2013-01 and Health & Safety Codes §§13916)

EIN: 94-6050034

Exhibit 5


Fire District Assignment by Tax Assessment
LAKE PILLSBURY FPD
NORTHSHORE FPD
LAKESHORE FPD
KELSEYVILLE FPD
LAKEPORT FPD
LOWER LAKE FPD
SOUTHLAKE FPD
Lake County
Fire Jurisdiction
Lake_Parcels_TRA
<all other values>
Fire_Jurisdiction
KELSEYVILLE FPD
LAKE PILLSBURY FPD
LAKEPORT FPD
LAKESHORE FPD
LOWER LAKE FPD
NORTHSHORE FPD
SOUTHLAKE FPD
Tom Knecht, Fire Captain
St Helena Command Center
CAL FIRE
October 2012

4

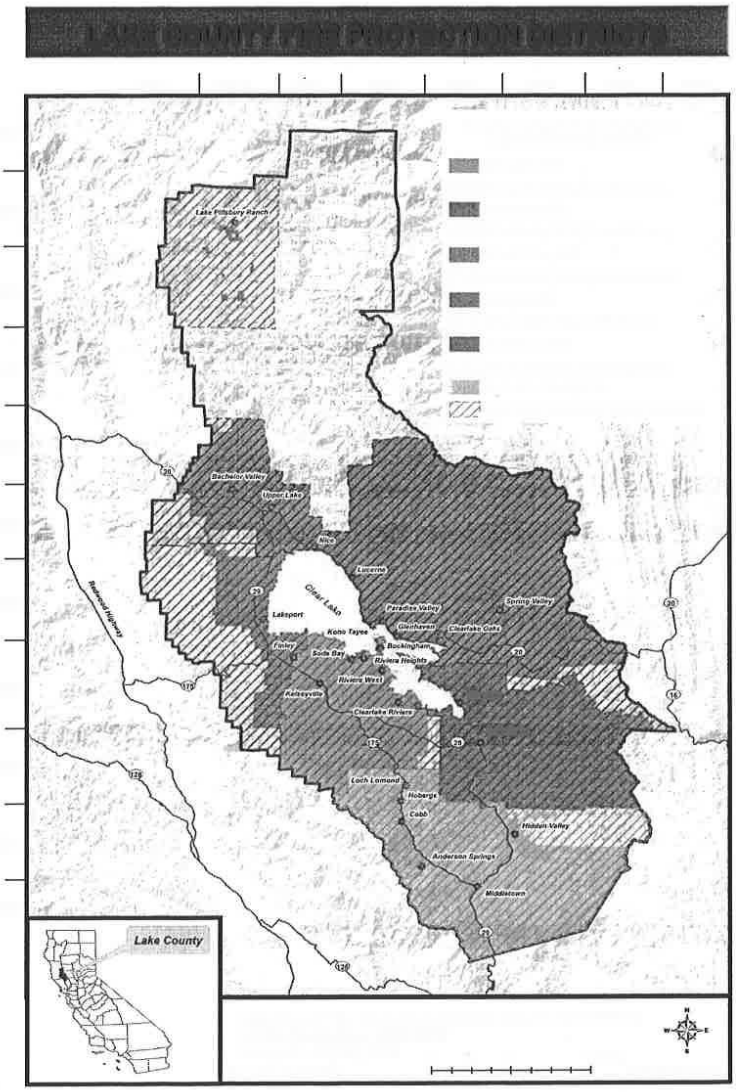
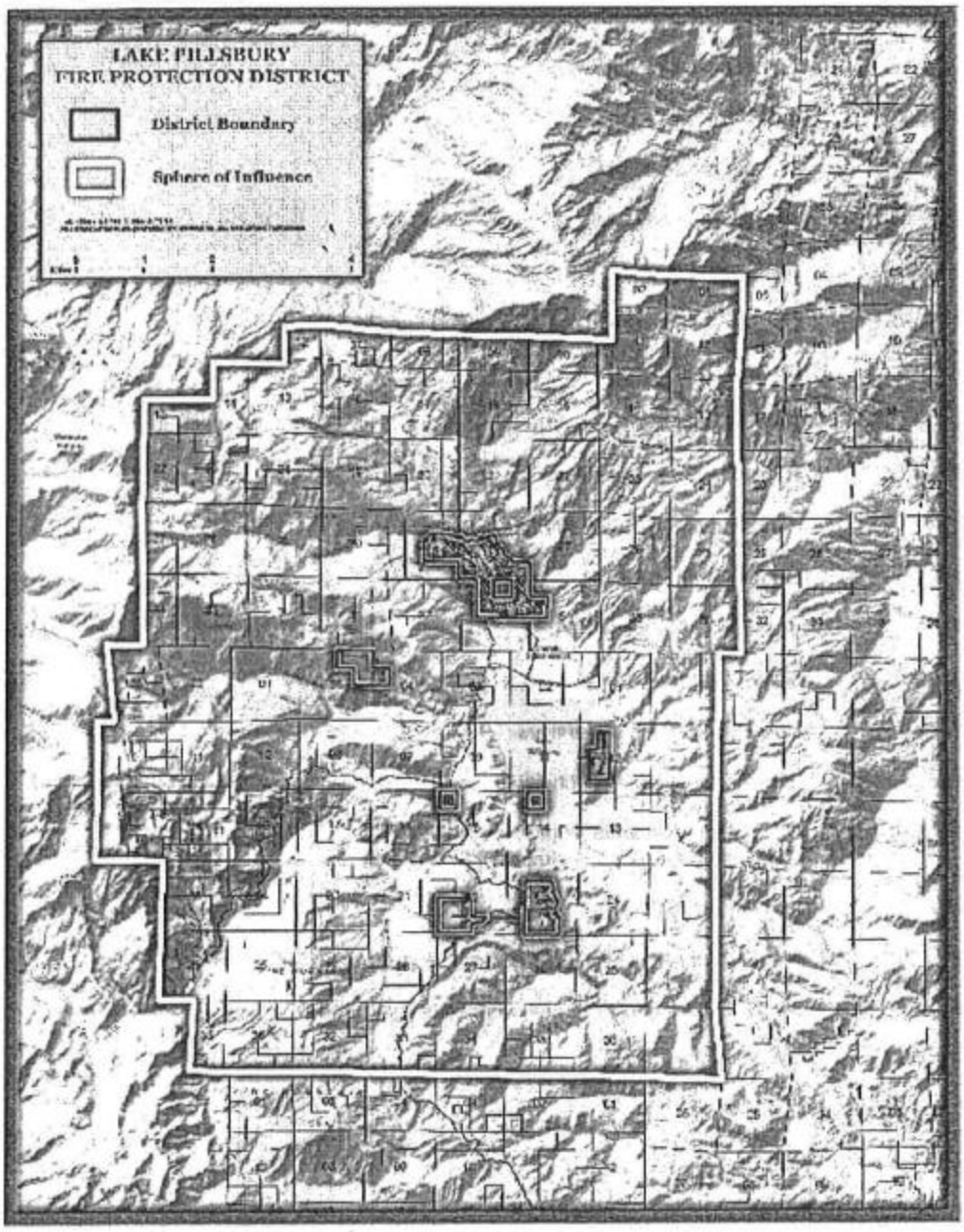

Lake Pillsbury Ranch
Bachelor Valley
Upper Lake
Nice
Lucerne
Clear Lake
Lakeport
Paradise Valley
Spring Valley
Kono Tayee
Glenhaven
Clearlake Oaks
Finley
Soda Bay
Buckingham
Riviera Heights
Riviera West
Kelseyville
Clearlake Riviera
Loch Lomond
Hobergs
Cobb
Hidden Valley
Anderson Springs
Middletown
Mayacama Mountains
Lake County

Exhibit 6

LAKE LAFCO
FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICTS
March 2015 Service Review and Sphere of Influence



1914 Seagrave

Old NO. 2

Lake Pillsbury FPD

KELSEYVILLE
FIRE DEPT.
PARAMEDIC

HOW CAN WE SAFELY LAND?

LAMPSON FIELD

Summary:

Lampson Field Airport is within the unincorporated Lake County area and is located on Highland Springs Road off Highway 29 between Kelseyville and Lakeport. The County Department of Public Works is responsible for the management and operation of the airport. Improvements and maintenance to the airport will make for a safe landing. The Lakeport Fire Protection District provides fire protection for the Airport.

Background:

Lampson Field is a General Aviation airport located approximately five miles southwest of Lakeport, California. The airport was activated in 1941, and acquired by the County in 1955. Lampson Field served as the base of operations for Cal Fire during the Mendocino Complex fires. It can accommodate single and twin-engine prop planes, business jets, and helicopters. The development of General Aviation airports is impacted by three basic factors:

1. The airfield or runway capacity.
2. The aircraft parking capacity.
3. The environmental impact on the community in terms of safety and noise.

Methodology:

The Grand Jury toured the Airport facilities and began an inquiry into Lampson Field Airport operations to enhance the public's knowledge of its vital importance and

financial impact on the county. The Grand Jury interviewed Airport and County management staff, local businesses at the Airport, members of the Lake County Airman's Association, and local pilots. The Grand Jury held a phone conference with the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA) representative in Washington, D.C., and reviewed the Public Utilities Codes, the State Aeronautics Act, the California Land Use Planning Handbook, and the organizational documents of the Airport Land Use Commission (ALUC).

Discussion and Analysis:

Lampson Field is a vital component of the economic sustainability and success of Lake County. According to the recently completed Lake County Economic Development Strategy, the Airport is an important component of improved long-term flexibility for tourism and business needs. It further recommends consideration of airport renovation and expansion. The Grand Jury found a number of compliance concerns, which are noted in the following findings. The goal of compliance is to ensure a clear path to obtain grants from the FAA to secure funding for the sustainability of Lampson Field. **More than 3 billion dollars in general aviation airport funding is currently available.** Above all, ***safety*** comes first!

Findings:

F1 The Lake County Public Works Department has recently begun much needed improvements and upgrades to Lampson Field.

F2 Airport management has experienced resistance from the County in its efforts to upgrade the facility, therefore, progress has been slow in forthcoming.

F3 The Lampson Field Airport Master Plan was last updated in 1993. Master plans, without amendments, are in effect for a maximum of 20 years (Public Utilities Code sec. 21675 (a)). **Lampson Field's updated Master Plan is now six years overdue.**

F4 Lampson Field's compatibility study, regarding noise and safety, was last updated in 1993**. This study must be completed and filed with the ALUC once every five years.**

F5 Lampson Field, as required by the State Aeronautics Act section 21001et seq., does not have an active ALUC commission so is currently out of compliance with state law.

F6 The California Public Utility Code Section 21670 (b), reads in part; "Every county, in which there is located an airport, shall establish an airport land use commission. Each commission shall consist of seven members to be selected as follows:"

(1) Two members representing the cities in the county, appointed by a city selection committee comprised of the mayors of the cities within that county.

(2) Two members representing the county, appointed by the county board of supervisors.

(3) Two members having expertise in aviation, appointed by a selection committee comprised of the managers of all the public airports within that county.

(4) One member representing the public, appointed by the other members of the ALUC commission.

F7 Funds and grants are available for upgrades and repairs of the Lampson Field Airport but must be applied for prior to December 31 of each year. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), the Airport Improvement Program (AIP), and the Non-Primary Entitlement (NPE), all have the ability to help with grant funding. ALUC and AOPA are the support vehicles to obtain these funds.

Recommendations:

R1 A plan of action is needed immediately in order to seek help with the ALUC commission process to enable application for available grants and funding. (F3, F4, F5, F6, F7)

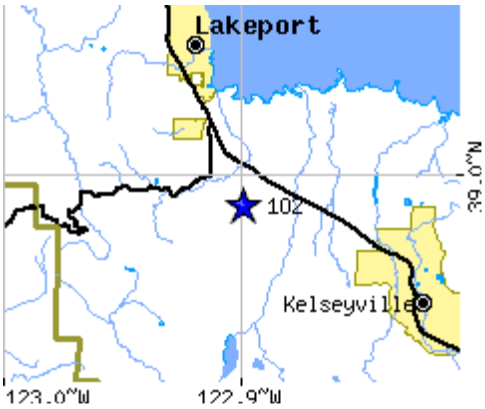
R2 Seat the ALUC commission for Lampson Field prior to June 15th of 2019 in order to apply for funds and grants prior to December 31, 2019. (F4, F5, F6, F7)

R3 Lampson Field's Master Plan should be updated and current under Public Utility Codes prior to December 31, 2019. (F3)

R4 Lampson Field's compatibility study regarding noise and safety, should be updated prior to December 31, 2019. (F4)

R5 Lampson Field should be in compliance with statutory requirements within the ALUC prior to December 31, 2019. (F4, F5, F6, F7)

R6 The county Board of Supervisors should work more closely with the management staff of the Public Works Department to promote the much-needed repairs and upgrades of Lampson Field. (F1, F5, F6)



Request for Responses:

Pursuant to Penal Codes sec.933(c), the following response(s) are required:

- Lake County Board of Supervisors (R1, R4, R5, R6) (90 days)
- Mayor of the City of Lakeport (R1) (90 days)
- Mayor of the City of Clearlake (R1) (90 days)
- Lake County Public Work Departments (R2, R3, R4, R5, R6) (60 days)

Note: The Lake County Civil Grand Jury would like to thank and commend the management and operations staff of Lampson Field for their continued efforts to make our airport a safe and enjoyable place for pilots to land.

Sources:

1.) California Department of Transportation
2.) Public Utilities Code(s)
3.) State Aeronautics Act
4.) Airport Land Use Commission (ALUC)
5.) California Pilots Association
6.) Lake County Airman Association
7.) Airport site visit
8.) Lake County Economic Development Strategy
9.) Airport Policy Manager of Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA), Washington, D.C.
10.) Airport Improvement Program (AIP)

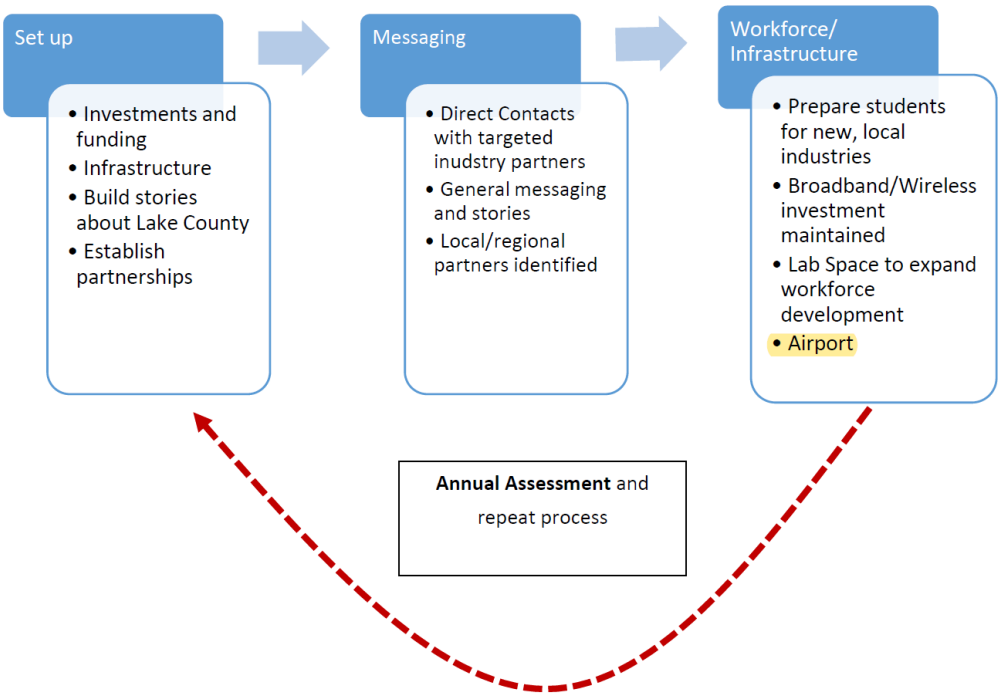
Exhibits:

EFA
Economic Forensics & Analytics

For Workforce Alliance of the North Bay,
County of Lake, and Lake County EDC

LAKE COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY: THE PATH



The Strategy

One of the key outcomes of this exercise was understanding what Lake County is and is likely not in terms of a place to do business.

Targeted Industries

- **University and research institution biological and fire/disaster science**
  - Lake County builds to being globally recognized for specific science
- **Agricultural supply chain**
  - Focus on linkages to local and regional agriculture and provide solutions
- **Advanced entrepreneurs seeking a place to work and live, where their markets are outside Lake County, examples include:**
  - Engineering;
  - Aerospace; and
  - Graphic Design/Arts.
- **Tourism**
  - Natural assets in Lake County;
  - Artist communities and events;
  - Consider new properties as corporate partners and provide incentives;
  - Focus on wineries, astronomy, health care, and ecotourism; and
  - Health care connected (outpatient package stays while recovering, e.g.).

Infrastructure Needs: Short and Long Term

- Short-Term
  - Broadband or wireless expansion: public and corporate partnerships needed.
  - Identify commercial space and parcels to market for targeted industries
  - Water and sewer projects as planned (see Lake County document)
- Long-term
  - Airport: provides more flexibility to tourism and business needs
  - Roadways: Consider specific arteries to expand or to allow for larger vehicles as needed

Characteristics that make Lake County Different: Stories to Tell

- Quality of life: community tight, at elevation, small-town feel everywhere, no traffic
- Low-cost alternative: housing, commercial RE relatively inexpensive regionally
- Natural: Clear Lake, the hills, the proximity to the mountains and oceans, wine country

Reality and the Stories

- Plan needs to be seen as long-term, no quick solutions and must be countywide;
- Lake County has both real and perception challenges in terms of public relations;
- Marketing and outreach must be positive and realistic, building on good stories;
- Regional environment competitive: focus on how Lake County is different and why it should be the first choice for visitors and new businesses based on targeted list above.

Lampson Field Airport FAA data as of January 2019 **Summary:**

Latitude/Longitude	38-59-26.2 N / 122-54-2.6 W
Elevation	1380.1 FT
Variation	16 E 1990
From city	3 miles S of LAKEPORT, CA
ARTCC	ZOA
Section chart	SAN FRANCISCO
Time Zone	UTC-8(-7DT)

OPERATIONS

Airport Status	Operational
Facility use	Open to the public
Control Tower	No air traffic control tower at airport
FSS	OAKLAND FSS (OAK) Toll Free: 1-800-WX-BRIEF MERG FREQ 121.5 NOT AVBL AT FSS.
NOTAMs Facility	OAK (METROPOLITAN OAKLAND INTL)
Attendance	UNATNDD
Wind Indicator	Lighted
Segmented Circle	Yes
Lights	SEE RMK ACTVT MIRL RWY 10/28 - CTAF.
Beacon	Clear and Green SS-SR
Landing Fee	No
Fuel	100LL
Fire and Rescue	Lakeport Fire District
Int'l Operations	Not a Landing Rights Airport Not an Airport of Entry

COMMUNICATIONS	UNICOM:	122.8 MHz
	CTAF:	122.8 MHz
	ATIS:	None

Remarks:

APCH/DEP SVC PRVDD BY OAKLAND ARTCC ON FREQS 127.8/353.5 (UKIAH RCAG).

NAVAIDS

NAVAIDS:

Type	ID	Name	Frequency	Hours	Distance	Bearing	Remarks
VORTAC	EN	IMENDOCINO	112.3 MHz	24 Hours	17.9 nm	102.1°	• OPERATIONAL IFR
NDB	UK	KEARN	371 KHz	24 Hours	23.3 nm	137.2°	• SHUTDOWN • NDB UNUSBL 250-275 BYD 6 NM BLO 7000 FT.
VOR/DME	ST	SANTA ROSA	113 MHz	24 Hours	29.2 nm	351.7°	• OPERATIONAL RESTRICTED • VOR/DME UNUSABLE 360-030 BEYOND 25 NM BELOW 10000; 030-080 BEYOND 25 NM BELOW 7500; 080-120 BEYOND 25 NM BELOW 5500; 340-360 BEYOND 32 NM BELOW 10000.

WEATHER

ID	Type	Frequency	Phone	Distance	Remarks
1O2	WX AWOS-3	118.35 MHz	707-262-0380	0.3 nm	
UKI	WX ASOS	119.275 MHz	707-462-7343	16.2 nm	
STS	WX ASOS	120.55 MHz	707-573-8393	29.2 nm	
LLR	WX AWOS-AV	121.125 MHz	707-937-6059	43.0 nm	
O69	WX AWOS-3P	132.325 MHz	707-773-1529	45.9 nm	

RUNWAY 10/28

Dimensions	3600 ft. x 60 ft.
Surface Type	ASPH
Surface Condition	GOOD

Treatment	
Runway Edge Lights	Medium Intensity
PCN	
Single Wheel	30,000 lbs
Double Wheel	
Double Tandem	
Dual Double Tandem	

Base End: 10

True Alignment	119°
Traffic Pattern	
Markings	Basic
Markings Condition	Good
Latitude	38-59-34.8342 N
Longitude	122-54-22.4987 W
Elevation	1380.1 ft.
Threshold Crossing Height	
Visual Glide Path Angle	
Visual Slope Indicator	
Centerline Lights	no
Runway End Identifier Lights	No
Displaced Threshold	
DT Latitude	
DT Longitude	
DT Elevation	
TDZE	1380.1 ft.

Reciprocal End: 28

True Alignment	299°
Traffic Pattern	Right
Markings	Basic
Markings Condition	Good
Latitude	38-59-17.5234 N
Longitude	122-53-42.6688 W
Elevation	1370.8 ft.
Threshold Crossing Height	40 ft. AGL
Visual Glide Path Angle	4°
Visual Slope Indicator	2-light PAPI on left
Centerline Lights	no
Runway End Identifier Lights	No

Displaced Threshold	85.0 ft.
DT Latitude	38-59-17.9323 N
DT Longitude	122-53-43.6095 W
DT Elevation	1370.8 ft.
TDZE	1376 ft.

HELIPORTS

None

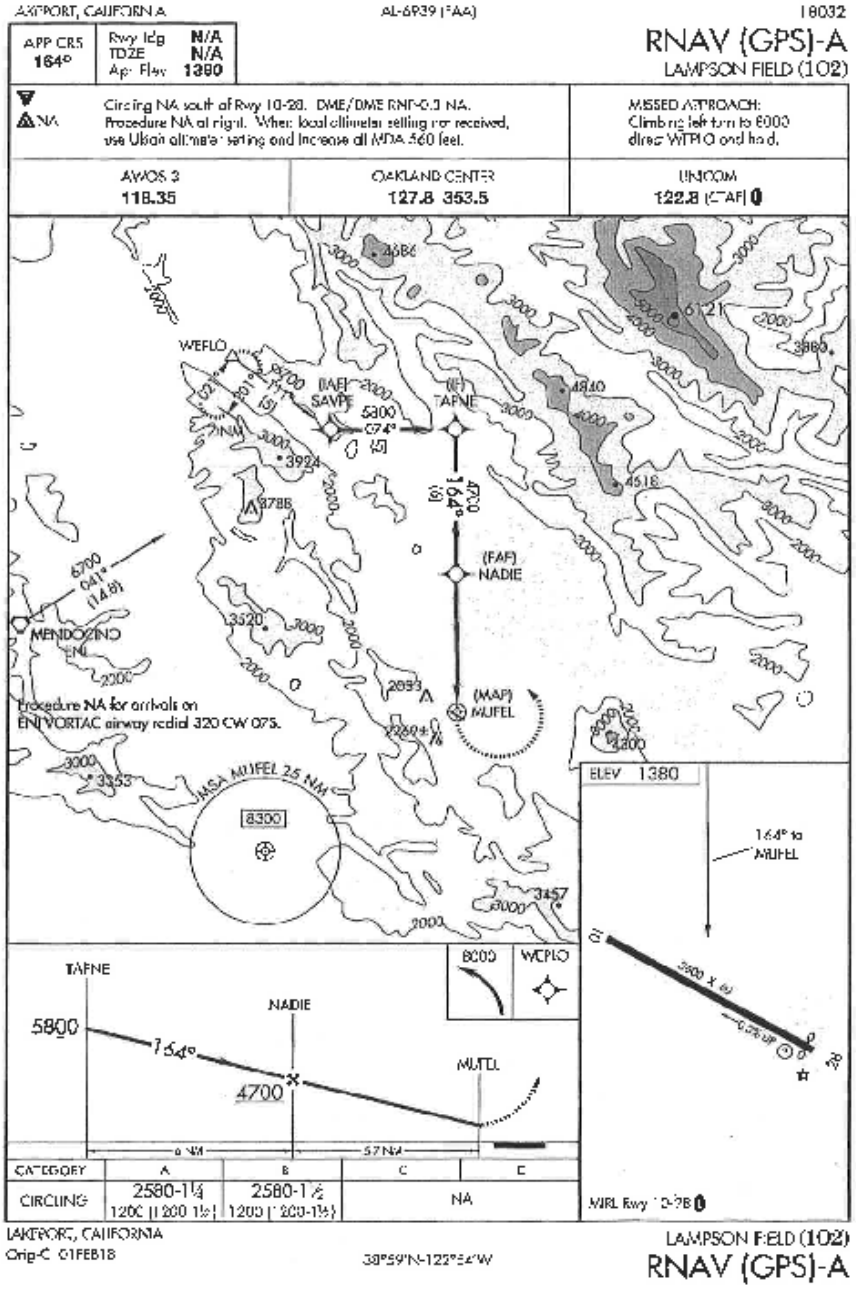
CHARTS

Chart data valid from 0901Z 01/31/19 to 0901Z 02/28/19.

CONTACTS

OWNER

LAKE COUNTY
255 N FORBES ST
LAKEPORT, CA 95453
UNITED STATES Phone: 707-263-2341


AIRPORT, CALIFORNIA
AL-6939 (FAA)
18032
RNAV (GPS)-A
LAMPSON FIELD (102)
APP CRS 164°
Rwy ldg N/A
TDZE N/A
Apt Elev 1380
Circling NA south of Rwy 10-28. DME/DME RNP-0.3 NA.
Procedure NA at night. When local altimeter setting not received, use Ukiah altimeter setting and increase all MDA 560 feet.
MISSED APPROACH:
Climbing left turn to 6000 direct WEPLO and hold.
AWOS 3
118.35
OAKLAND CENTER
127.8 353.5
UNICOM
122.8 (CTAF)
WEPLO
(IAF) SAVPE
(IF) TAPNE
(FAF) NADIE
(MAP) MUFEL
MENDOCINO
Procedure NA for arrivals on ENI VORTAC airway radial 320 CW 075.
MASA MUFEL 25 NM
8300
ELEV 1380
164° to MUFEL
TAPNE
NADIE
MUFEL
5800
4700
CATEGORY
A
B
C
D
CIRCLING
2580-1¼
2580-1½
NA
AIRPORT, CALIFORNIA
Orig-C 01FEB18
38°59'N-122°54'W
LAMPSON FIELD (102)
RNAV (GPS)-A
SW-2, 11 OCT 2018 to 08 NOV 2018
SW-2, 11 OCT 2018 to 08 NOV 2018

LAMPSON FIELD

RESPONSES RECEIVED REGARDING LAMPSON FIELD

City of Clearlake

14050 Olympic Drive, Clearlake, California 95422
(707) 994-8201 Fax (707) 995-2653

LAKE COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT
RECEIVED
MAY 10 2019
BY: _____

April 25, 2019

Superior Court of California
Attn: Grand Jury Responses
County of Lake
255 N. Forbes Street, 4th Floor
Lakeport, CA 95453

Re: Report Title: "How Can We Safely Land?"

The City of Clearlake wishes to thank the members of the Lake County Grand Jury for their report and their service to the citizens of Lake County. City management has reviewed the recommendations which are applicable to the City of Clearlake, drafted responses, and submitted the responses to the City Council for approval.

Pursuant to law, the City of Clearlake herewith tenders our responses to those recommendations applicable to the City:

Recommendation (R) #1:

A plan of action is needed immediately in order to seek help with the ALUC commission process to enable application for available grants and funding.

Agree; has been implemented. While the City of Clearlake does not have jurisdiction over Lampson Field, the Clearlake City Council has appointed a member to the Lake County Airport Land Use Commission (ALUC) for many years. Attached to this letter is a listing of the 2019 City of Clearlake Mayor's Appointments showing Vice Mayor Cremer and Councilmember Slooten as the appointee to the ALUC. Additionally, the City is willing to participate in any additional committees or efforts to enhance this vital link to Lake County tourism and economic development.

Regards,

S. Nick Bennett
Mayor

CITY OF LAKEPORT
Over 100 years of community pride, progress and service.

June 4, 2019

JUN 11 2019

The Honorable Judge Blum
Superior Court of California
County of Lake
PO Box 1078
Kelseyville, CA 95451

Dear Judge Blum,

The City of Lakeport respectfully submits our responses to the 2019 Lake County Grand Jury Report which references Lampson Field Airport

The City agrees that Lampson Field is an integral part of the County's economic development strategy as stated in the Lake EDC strategic plan.

Lakeport City Mayor, Timothy Barnes has appointed Council Member Stacey Mattina to the Airport Commission for a 4-year term.

Staff has addressed all findings and recommendations of the Grand Jury mentioned review.

The City of Lakeport would like to express our gratitude for the hard work of the Grand Jury and for their service to the Citizens of Lake County.

Respectfully,

Margaret Silveira

Margaret Silveira
City Manager

Department of Public Works

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Andrew S. Blum
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court

FROM: Scott De Leon, Director SD

SUBJECT: Grand Jury Report Response

DATE: May 16, 2019

The 2018-19 Grand Jury performed a review of the Lampson Field Airport, and their investigation resulted in a number of Findings and Recommendations, reported in "How Can We Safely Land?" The following is my response to this report.

Before responding to the Grand Jury's specific Findings and Recommendations, I have a need to address some portions of the "Discussion and Analysis" section of the report, which may have prompted undue public concern.

The statements, *"The Grand Jury found a number of compliance concerns…"* and, *"The goal of compliance is to ensure a clear path to obtain grants from the FAA to secure funding for the sustainability of Lampson Field"* suggest that Lampson Field is out of compliance, and therefore not eligible for grant funds. This is not the case.

Staff regularly applies for funds through the FAA and the State, and recently applied for over two million dollars in grant funds from a special program through the FAA. There will be further discussion of compliance later in this response.

The second statement that warrants correction is the emphasized, "*More than 3 billion dollars in general aviation airport funding is currently available.*" We heard this statement from members of the Grand Jury during our tour of the airport, and requested they provide the source of their claim. They did not provide a definitive response, and their report likewise does not include a relevant citation. Absent such documentation, we are unable to directly address this claim, though it is not fully consistent with our staff's research. I've provided additional remarks under Finding #7.

The following is a discussion on the Findings were listed in the Report:

L:\Scott\ Memos\Grand Jury 2018-19 Final

Finding #F1: *The Lake County Public Works Department has recently begun much needed improvements and upgrades to Lampson Field.*

☒ AGREE

☐ DISAGREE WITH EXPLANATION

As explained to the Grand Jury (GJ), the Department of Public Works (DPW) has begun steps toward a pavement preservation project that will extend the life of the runway pavement and taxiway through application of a specially-formulated sealant called, "slurry-seal." This project is estimated to cost $700,000, and is currently being advertised for bids. Our plans are to construct the project in late summer or early fall. We are also working with a landowner at the airport toward development of a pilot's lounge in a currently vacant building.

Finding #F2: *Airport Management has experienced resistance from the County in its efforts to upgrade the facility, therefore, progress has been slow in forthcoming.*

☐ AGREE

☒ DISAGREE WITH EXPLANATION

There is no discussion in the report regarding this finding, so it is unclear what information was used to support it. Staff recalls general discussion with the GJ regarding State Redevelopment Funds, and the decisions made to pursue other projects in lieu of investments in the airport. However, those decisions were made over a decade ago, and do not reflect a current lack of support from "the County." In fact, the Board of Supervisors has authorized General Fund contributions to the Lampson Field Operations Budget Unit for the past several years to offset the difference in available revenue and operating expenses. The pace of improvements at the airport results from a lack of revenue and reliance on grant funds, not resistance from the Board or County Administration.

Finding #F3: *The Lampson Field Airport Master Plan was last updated in 1993. Master Plans, without amendments, are in effect for a maximum of 20 years (Public Utilities Code sec. 21675 (a)).* ***Lampson Field's updated Master Plan is now six years overdue*** *(Emphasis in the Report).*

☐ AGREE

☒ DISAGREE WITH EXPLANATION

This finding is disappointing, in that it makes a highly inflammatory statement that reflects poorly on the management of the airport, and the Code section cited in support is unrelated to the conclusions in the finding. I have attached Public Utilities Code Section 21675, and two particular facts are worth highlighting:

1) Code Section 21675 does not regard Master Plans, but instead refers to the requirement that each commission (Airport Land Use Commission) formulate an airport

L:\Scott\ Memos\Grand Jury 2018-19 Final

land use compatibility plan that is based on a long-range master plan, and considers anticipated growth of the airport over the next 20 years; and

2) No maximum timeframe is provided in this Code Section.

This finding misinterprets the Code, and the emphatic declaration that the Master Plan is overdue is therefore both sensational and inappropriate. Per DPW consultant Mead and Hunt, Master Plans are commonly prepared only when an airport is contemplating a major change in the facility. Examples of this would include a major runway extension to accommodate larger aircraft or introduction of scheduled passenger service. Current Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) policy is to provide grant funds for airport master plan updates only when significant changes are contemplated. DPW's customary practice is to periodically update the Airport Layout Plan (ALP) without updating the master plan. This is consistent with industry norms. Lampson Field has a current ALP that satisfies FAA and State requirements, and it was last updated in 2015, to reflect changes in FAA design standards.

Finding #F4: *Lampson Field's compatibility study, regarding noise and safety, was last updated in 1993.* ***This study must be completed and filed with the ALUC once every five years.***

☐ AGREE

☒ DISAGREE WITH EXPLANATION

This finding is perplexing, in that it has no discussion or references to support it. Using the words in the finding, staff is unclear what is meant by "Lampson Field's compatibility study." According to our records, the Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan, which is prepared by the Airport Land Use Commission (ALUC), was last updated in 2007, and included discussion of noise and safety.

According to the State Aeronautics Act, Section 21675 (a), "The airport land use compatibility plan shall be reviewed as often as necessary in order to accomplish its purposes, but shall not be amended more than once in any calendar year." Staff could not locate any references to a "compatibility study," nor could we locate any reference that requires such a study be submitted to the ALUC every five years. Therefore, I disagree with the finding, and the highlighted declaration that we are five years overdue on a report.

Finding #F5: *Lampson Field, as required by the State Aeronautics Act section 21001 et.seq. does not have an active ALUC commission so is currently out of compliance with state law.*

☐ AGREE

☒ DISAGREE WITH EXPLANATION

While it's true that the California Public Utilities Code Section 21001 et. seq., (Section 21001 through 21709), also known as the State Aeronautics Act, requires an Airport Land Use Commission (ALUC), there are no statutory requirements that it be active, and considering the

limited development activity on and around the Lampson Field Airport, it is not surprising that the commission has not been meeting. I disagree with the finding, and particularly the erroneous claim that we are out of compliance with state law.

Finding #F6: *The California Public Utilities Code Section 21670 (b) reads in part: "Every county, in which there is located an airport, shall establish an airport land use commission. Each commission shall consist of seven members to be selected as follows:"*

1) *Two members representing the cities in the county, appointed by a city selection committee comprised of the mayors of the cities within that county.*
2) *Two members representing the county, appointed by the county board of supervisors.*
3) *Two members having expertise in aviation, appointed by a selection committee comprised of the managers of all the public airports within that county.*
4) *One member representing the public, appointed by the other members of the ALUC commission.*

☒ AGREE

☐ DISAGREE WITH EXPLANATION

Finding #F7: *Funds and grants are available for upgrades and repairs of the Lampson Field Airport but must be applied for prior to December 31 of each year. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), the Airport Improvement Program (AIP), and the Non-Primary Entitlement (NPE), all have the ability to help with grant funding. ALUC and AOPA are the support vehicles to obtain these funds.*

☐ AGREE

☒ DISAGREE WITH EXPLANATION

The Airport Improvement Program (AIP) and the Non-Primary Entitlement (NPE) are both funding programs available through the FAA. The County of Lake obtains $150,000 in discretionary funding through the AIP program on an annual basis. The program allows the accumulation of up to four (4) years of allocations, to facilitate construction of larger improvement projects, which the County has done in order to prepare for our pavement preservation project this summer. The NPE program is also funded through the FAA, and only available when Congress appropriates $3.2 billion dollars or more for that program in a specific fiscal year. If this is the "$3 billion dollars" referenced in the opening discussion section of the report, there may be an opportunity to pursue an additional grant. Staff is working with our consultant to determine if the NPE program has been funded, and it should be noted that NPE grants are highly competitive, and recipients secure a fraction of the total allocation.

As background, the powers and duties of the ALUC are as follows:

a) To assist local agencies in ensuring compatible land uses in the vicinity of all new airports and in the vicinity of existing airports to the extent that the land in the vicinity of those airports is not already devoted to incompatible uses.

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b) To coordinate planning at the state, regional and local levels so as to provide for the orderly development of air transportation, while at the same time protecting the public health, safety, and welfare.
c) To prepare and adopt an airport land use compatibility plan pursuant to Section 21675.
d) To review the plans, regulations, and other actions of local agencies and airport operators pursuant to Section 21676.
e) The powers of the commission shall in no way be construed to give the commission jurisdiction over the operation of any airport.
f) In order to carry out its responsibilities, the commission may adopt rules and regulations consistent with this article.

It is unclear how the GJ determined that the ALUC is a "vehicle to obtain grant funds" for the airport. Additionally, there was no discussion of the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA) in the report, so it is also unclear how they are vehicles to obtain grant funds.

The following is a discussion of the Recommendations listed in the Report:

Recommendation #2: *Seat the ALUC commission for Lampson Field prior to June 15th of 2019 in order to apply for funds and grants prior to December 31, 2019. (F4, F5, F6, F7)*

- ☒ HAS BEEN IMPLEMENTED WITH EXPLANATION
- ☐ HAS NOT YET BEEN IMPLEMENTED BUT WILL BE IN THE FUTURE
- ☐ WITH TIMEFRAME FOR COMPLETION
- ☐ REQUIRES FURTHER ANALYSIS WITH EXPLANATION
- ☐ WILL NOT BE IMPLEMENTED WITH EXPLANATION

The Board of Supervisors recently voted to reestablish the Airport Land Use Commission, and staff is in the process of completing selection of the final designees. This commission can be in place prior to June 15. However, DPW can apply for grant funds, regardless of whether this occurs.

Recommendation #3: *Lampson Field's Master Plan should be updated and current under Public Utility Codes prior to December 31, 2019. (F3)*

- ☐ HAS BEEN IMPLEMENTED WITH EXPLANATION
- ☐ HAS NOT YET BEEN IMPLEMENTED BUT WILL BE IN THE FUTURE
- ☐ WITH TIMEFRAME FOR COMPLETION
- ☐ REQUIRES FURTHER ANALYSIS WITH EXPLANATION
- ☒ WILL NOT BE IMPLEMENTED WITH EXPLANATION

As previously discussed, updating the Master Plan is not statutorily required, nor is it necessary, due to the limited growth and development of the airport and surrounding properties. Performing this unnecessary update could cost upwards of $350,000. If a significant change to the airport is contemplated at a future date, we will consider an update. In the meantime, we will continue routine updates to the Airport Layout Plan, as required.

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Recommendation #4: *Lampson Field's compatibility study regarding noise and safety, should be updated prior to December 31, 2019. (F4)*

- ☐ HAS BEEN IMPLEMENTED WITH EXPLANATION
- ☐ HAS NOT YET BEEN IMPLEMENTED BUT WILL BE IN THE FUTURE
- ☐ WITH TIMEFRAME FOR COMPLETION
- ☐ REQUIRES FURTHER ANALYSIS WITH EXPLANATION
- ☒ WILL NOT BE IMPLEMENTED WITH EXPLANATION

It is presumed the report that the GJ is referring to is the Lampson Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan. As previously discussed, an update is not statutorily required, nor is it necessary.

Recommendation #5: *Lampson Field should be in compliance with statutory requirements within the ALUC prior to December 31, 2019. (F4, F5, F6, F7)*

- ☒ HAS BEEN IMPLEMENTED WITH EXPLANATION
- ☐ HAS NOT YET BEEN IMPLEMENTED BUT WILL BE IN THE FUTURE
- ☐ WITH TIMEFRAME FOR COMPLETION
- ☐ REQUIRES FURTHER ANALYSIS WITH EXPLANATION
- ☐ WILL NOT BE IMPLEMENTED WITH EXPLANATION

Lampson Field is already in compliance with statutory requirements, and no further action is planned.

Recommendation #6: *The county Board of Supervisors should work more closely with the management staff of the Public Works Department to promote the much-needed repairs and upgrades of Lampson Field. (F1, F5, F6)*

- ☒ HAS BEEN IMPLEMENTED WITH EXPLANATION
- ☐ HAS NOT YET BEEN IMPLEMENTED BUT WILL BE IN THE FUTURE
- ☐ WITH TIMEFRAME FOR COMPLETION
- ☐ REQUIRES FURTHER ANALYSIS WITH EXPLANATION
- ☐ WILL NOT BE IMPLEMENTED WITH EXPLANATION

As previously discussed, the Board of Supervisors has been working closely with DPW on the development of the airport by providing funding to support operations and improvements. As we prepare budgets for next fiscal year, the Board of Supervisors will yet again be authorizing a General Fund contribution.

Finally, previous Grand Jury reports have been scrutinized for the titles of the various investigations, and the title of this discussion is highly misleading and inappropriate. "HOW CAN WE SAFELY LAND?" implies that Lampson Field is unsafe, yet there is no discussion of safety issues. The Grand Jury made a considerable effort to review the airport, and I appreciate their earnest effort. However, I wish their final report had focused more on facts,

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COUNTY OF LAKE
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Courthouse - 255 North Forbes Street
Lakeport, California 95453
TELEPHONE (707) 263-2368
FAX (707) 263-2207

Moke Simon
District 1

Bruno Sabatier
District 2

Eddie Crandell
District 3

Tina Scott
District 4

Rob Brown
District 5

June 11, 2019

The Honorable Andrew S. Blum
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court
255 North Forbes Street
Lakeport, CA 95453

RE: Response to the 2018/2019 Grand Jury Special Report on Lampson Field Airport

Dear Judge Blum:

Pursuant to Penal Code Section 933, the Board of Supervisors submits this response to the FY 2018/2019 Civil Grand Jury's Special Report, "How Can We Safely Land?"

As is our custom, our Board's response is presented in the same sequence as the recommendations appear in the Special Report. We have provided a response to all items for which the report indicated a response was required by the Board of Supervisors.

A detailed response from County Director of Public Works, Scott De Leon, which addresses each Finding and Recommendation put forth in the Special Report, is likewise attached. Our Board finds Director De Leon's assessment of each matter posed to be appropriate, and we applaud DPW for using the right planning instruments at the right times, as discussed in their departmental response.

Our Board, further, recognizes the significant investment made by Director De Leon and Department of Public Works staff to provide a timely and professional response, despite the sensational nature of some of the content.

OVERALL COMMENTS ON THIS REPORT

The Lake County Board of Supervisors appreciates the important oversight function that the Civil Grand Jury has historically played in the State of California, and the great need for the public to be able to trust that their elected and appointed officials are dutifully and effectively executing the responsibilities of our offices. Further, we value the commitment made by each member of the FY 2018/2019 Civil Grand Jury to execute their important civic role in a manner consistent with State Law.

R5. Lampson Field should be in compliance with statutory requirements within the ALUC prior to December 31, 2019.

DISAGREE, will not be implemented.

Explanation: Our Board finds that Lampson Field is already in compliance with statutory requirements. Therefore, no action is required.

R6. The county Board of Supervisors should work more closely with management staff of the Public Works Department to promote the much-needed repairs and upgrades of Lampson Field.

DISAGREE, will not be implemented.

Explanation: As mentioned above and discussed by the Public Works Director in his response, our Board and DPW have long collaborated to ensure repairs and upgrades to Lampson Field Airport are made, in consideration of available resources.

This concludes the Board of Supervisors' response to the 2018/2019 Civil Grand Jury Special Report.

Sincerely,

LAKE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Tina Scott
Chair of the Board

cc: 2017-2018 Civil Grand Jury Foreperson
2018-2019 Civil Grand Jury Foreperson

LAKE COUNTY 2017-2018 GRAND JURY CONTINUITY REPORT

SUMMARY

Following up on the findings and recommendations from a prior year is a prime responsibility of the Lake County Grand Jury. Each year the Grand Jury issues reports with findings and recommendations directed to Lake County officials and agencies and municipal and other public entities. Following up on written responses as dictated by the California Penal Code Sections 933 and its 933.05 is an important function of all California Grand Juries. The 2018-2019 Lake County Grand Jury collected and analyzed all findings with responses to the 2017-2018 Lake County Grand Jury findings and recommendations as the basis for this report.

PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report will demonstrate to affected parties and, importantly, to the public that the Lake County Grand Jury will review and act on missing and/or inadequate responses to its findings and recommendations. The continuity procedure will enable the current and subsequent juries to determine if further action is required by the provisions of the California Penal Code.

LAKE COUNTY CIVIL GRAND JURY CONTINUITY REPORT
Poor Student Attendance Costs Lake County Public Schools

Recommendation #1: Public school districts must work more closely with each other and county agencies to promote school attendance and to intercede in cases of truancy. This effort should be done in concert such that the consideration of school attendance is raised as a countywide priority, and efforts are coordinated to both improve attendance services and contain costs.

RESPONDENT	RESPONSE
Superintendent of Schools	The recommendation has been Implemented. We do have the platform to educate, train and lead in this vital area.

Recommendation #2: The Lake County Office of Education, school districts and the county and city governments should establish early childhood education opportunities for children ages 3-5. Appropriate government departments in the incorporated cities and in the County should be directed to identify such available public structures (in their respective jurisdictions) that could be modified to function as workable preschools. Active efforts to identify any state or federal or private funding sources for the modifications and ongoing operation of such preschools should be established.

RESPONDENT	RESPONSE
Superintendent of Schools	The recommendation has not been implemented, but will be implemented in the future. [no time frame given]
Board of Supervisors	The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable. Local public schools are not within the purview of the Board.
Lakeport City Council	The recommendation has not been implemented, but will be implemented in the future. [no time frame given]
Clearlake City Council	The recommendation has been implemented

Recommendation #3: The County Superintendent of Schools and the Superintendents of the various school districts should publish to their Boards, parents and communities P1, P2, and P3 attendance reports along with an estimate of revenue loss due to absenteeism.

RESPONDENT	RESPONSE
Superintendent of Schools	The recommendation has not been implemented, but will be implemented in the future. [no time frame given]
President of Kelseyville Unified School District	*[No Response*]

President of Konocti Unified School District	The recommendation has been implemented
President of Lakeport Unified School District	[*No Response*]
President of Middletown Unified School District	The recommendation has been implemented
President of Lucerne Elementary School District	The recommendation has been implemented
President of Upper Lake Unified School District	*[No Response*]

Recommendation #4: School districts should establish specific programs involving parents and children in promoting school attendance. (i.e. proven programs from other counties such as 'attendance buddies', car-pooling, walking groups, etc. for the lower primary grades.) This can be quickly enacted, have minimum cost, and show significant impact.

RESPONDENT	RESPONSE
Superintendent of Schools	The recommendation has not been implemented, but will be implemented in the future. [no time frame given]
President of Kelseyville Unified School District	*[No Response*]
President of Konocti Unified School District	The recommendation has been implemented
President of Lakeport Unified School District	*[No Response*]
President of Middletown Unified School District	The recommendation has been implemented
President of Lucerne Elementary School District	The recommendation has been implemented
President of Upper Lake Unified School District	*[No Response*]

Recommendation #1: The BOS should communicate quarterly with their associated Senior Center representatives in order to address specific concerns.

RESPONDENT	RESPONSE
Board of Supervisors	The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable. Not within the purview of the Board.

Recommendation #2: Install correct or additional signage to direct patrons to the Senior Centers

RESPONDENT	RESPONSE
Board of Supervisors	The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable. Not within the purview of the Board.

Recommendation #3: The County should ensure that the Clearlake Oaks Senior Centers' handicap entrance functions properly.

RESPONDENT	RESPONSE
Board of Supervisors	The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable. Not within the purview of the Board.

Recommendation #4: The County should repair the sidewalks in front of the Lucerne Alpine Senior Center

RESPONDENT	RESPONSE
County Public Works Department	The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable. Sidewalks are not within public right-of-way.

LAKE COUNTY CIVIL GRAND JURY CONTINUITY REPORT

Where's My Building Permit?

Recommendation #1: In an emergency, Lake County should call on all of its available resources. This should include the activation of the currently functioning MOUs.

RESPONDENT	RESPONSE
Board of Supervisors	The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable. There is no Memorandum of Understanding in place

Recommendation #2: The Lake County Community Development Department should create an apprentice program similar to the one used by the City of Clearlake in order to promote new employment in their department.

RESPONDENT	RESPONSE
Head of Lake County Community Development Department	The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable. A building Inspector I is required to have two years of journey level of experience in construction work and building trades. This experience cannot be obtained through an apprenticeship program where only inspections are occurring in the Department

Recommendation #3: The Community Development Department should be prepared to streamline their processes in an emergency.

RESPONDENT	RESPONSE
Head of Lake County Community Development Department	The recommendation has been implemented

Recommendation #4: The Community Development Department should establish a fund specifically allocated for emergencies.

RESPONDENT	RESPONSE
Head of Lake County Community Development Department	The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable. An emergency fund would not provide any additional assistance

Recommendation #5: Establish yearly Countywide Community Development/Building and Inspection Department meetings to include the representatives from the cities of Lakeport and Clearlake Building and Planning Departments.

RESPONDENT	RESPONSE
Head of Lake County Community Development Department	The recommendation requires further analysis. To be completed prior to December 2018.

LAKE COUNTY CIVIL GRAND JURY CONTINUITY REPORT
Mandated Prison Inspections

Recommendation #1: The Clearlake Police Department should take reasonable measures to ensure disabled persons can manage adequately while in custody.

RESPONDENT	RESPONSE
Clearlake City Council	*[No Response*]
Chief of Police, Clearlake	N/A

Recommendation #2: The Clearlake Police Department should analyze and update the prisoner monitoring systems.

RESPONDENT	RESPONSE
Clearlake City Council	*[No Response*]
Chief of Police, Clearlake	N/A

Recommendation #3: The Hill Road County Jail management and the County Library System management should jointly define and install an appropriate Adult Literacy instructor.

RESPONDENT	RESPONSE
Lake County Sheriff	The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future. [no time frame was stated]

LAKE COUNTY CIVIL GRAND JURY CONTINUITY EPORT
The Wards of Lake County

Recommendation #1: Decisions regarding wards should not be prioritized by monetary concerns alone.

RESPONDENT	RESPONSE
Board of Supervisors	The recommendation has been implemented
Lake County Probation Department	The recommendation has been implemented

Recommendation #2: The accurate location and status of wards shall be shared by the Lake County Probation Department with the Lake County Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Commission.

RESPONDENT	RESPONSE
Board of Supervisors	The recommendation has been implemented
Lake County Probation Department	The recommendation has been

	implemented

Recommendation #3: The Lake County Probation Department should consult with all stakeholders and agencies when drafting any new contracts or contract extensions regarding juvenile detentions.

RESPONDENT	RESPONSE
Board of Supervisors	The recommendation has been implemented
Lake County Probation Department	The recommendation has been implemented

Recommendation #4: The Lake County Office of Education should initiate contact and further coordinate educational aspects and requirements for the Lake County wards housed in the Tehama County Juvenile Hall.

RESPONDENT	RESPONSE
Lake County Office of Education	The recommendation has been implemented

Recommendation #5: Future contracts should include specific goals and responsibilities for health care, mental health care, and education for the Lake County wards.

RESPONDENT	RESPONSE
Board of Supervisors	The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable. Mental Health care and education are provided with State mandates, and specific goals are appropriately tailored to the needs of the individual ward, and subject to change. Amending contracts in response to dynamic individual needs is impractical.
Lake County Probation Department	The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable. A facility's responsibilities to provide health care, mental health care and education are all State mandated and are defined, inspected and approved by the Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC). As for specific goals, programs are tailored based on individual needs of a ward and are subject to change frequently. Trying to include all of the frequently changing specific goals in a contract would be impracticable if not impossible

LAKE COUNTY CIVIL GRAND JURY CONTINUITY REPORT

The Touchable Soul of Lake County

Recommendation #1: The Library System in the County should investigate/recommend a method for establishing a bookmobile service. The BOS should support options to facilitate this service.

RESPONDENT	RESPONSE
Board of Supervisors	The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable. A bookmobile is not a cost-effective mean by which to provide library services to underserved students.
Director of Lake County Libraries	The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable. It has not been determined that it would be a cost–effective solution. A bookmobile could add at least $75,000 to $100,000 in additional ongoing operational costs in addition to the initial cost of the vehicle.

Recommendation #2: If the voters approve an increase to the County sales tax, a portion of this funding should be earmarked for the libraries.

RESPONDENT	RESPONSE
Board of Supervisors	The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable. A bookmobile is not a cost-effective mean by which to provide library services to underserved students.
Director of Lake County Libraries	The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable. Voters did not approve an increase to the County sales tax.

Recommendation #3: The libraries and museums need to expand hours of operation to increase accessibility and usage.

RESPONDENT	RESPONSE
Director of Lake County Museums	The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable. While staff agrees that

	expanded hours of operation and increased accessibility and usage are desirable, the addition of a museum coupled with the loss of a permanent staff makes this problematic to achieve
Director of Lake County Libraries	The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable. Compared to other libraries around the state serving similar populations with similar funding and a similar number of service outlets the Lake County Library is open the same or more hours to the public.

Recommendation #4: Creative and interactive programs should be established to encourage more participation of young people/students at the museums.

RESPONDENT	RESPONSE
Director of Lake County Museums	The recommendation has been implemented We have had several Family Fun Fridays this summer as well as hosting over 1,500 students this past year for museum tours and Dig Archeology days at the three museums. We currently have a college intern designing out first traveling history trunk on Lake Pomo Culture for use by k-12 teachers in their classes

Recommendation #5: The libraries and museums need vigorous recruitment of young adults, retired educators and seniors to serve as volunteer staff. They should be tasked with the goal of creating programs directed at younger children.

RESPONDENT	RESPONSE
Director of Lake County Museums	The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future. Work is progressing with the Lake County Office of Education this upcoming year to promote volunteerism as well as offering internships and opportunities for high school senior projects in the museums.
Director of Lake County Libraries	The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future. [no time frame was stated]

Recommendation #6: Increased publicity of Museum events should be funded and enacted.

RESPONDENT	RESPONSE
Board of Supervisors	The recommendation has been implemented
Lake County Superintendent of Schools	[*No Response*]

LAKE COUNTY CIVIL GRAND JURY CONTINUITY REPORT

Chaos After The Fires

Recommendation #1: The County should amend the Right-of-Entry form to clarify the meaning of "no out-of-pocket cost" to the property owners and should avoid use of the term "free" on any official handouts.

Recommendation #2: Prior to inevitable future fire emergencies, and such as was done in Calaveras County following the Butte Fire, the County should consider appointing one person to interact with the public and to be the centralized repository of disaster-response information.

Recommendation #3: County personnel must be mindful of their "customer service" responsibilities when dealing with its stressed citizens. These attitudes and practices flow down from Administration and the department heads. Initial or additional "customer service" training by professionals should be implemented as necessary and should be heartily supported by management.

Recommendation #4: In the immediate aftermath of a disastrous fire, Administration should proactively work with the property owners to ascertain their specific insurance coverage for debris removal

Recommendation #5: The County should avoid using the term "INVOICE" on the insurance-collection paperwork distributed to property owners.

Recommendation #6: The County should rework its insurance-collection documents so that the first page of the "billing" portions reflect the actual insurance coverage for that specific property owner and thus the amount actually due to the County.

Recommendation #7: County administrative personnel should actively seek out training regarding State and Federal regulations pertaining to debris removal prior to beginning the insurance collection process.

Recommendation #8: All administrative staff dealing with the public in the aftermath of a disaster should be cross-trained in the basics of State and Federal post-fire regulations as well as in Lake County post-fire insurance administrative procedures to provide backup continuity.

Recommendation #9: A dedicated phone line for debris removal insurance coverage queries should be instituted before collection procedures begin for the Clayton, Sulphur, and any future fires.

Recommendation #10: The preliminary message on that dedicated line should include words to the effect of "We have placed answers to many common questions on the Lake County OES website and we encourage you to peruse that site at "(County to develop a new web site location – specific to the fire/insurance issues)." This message should precede the caller's transfer to the responsible County person assigned to that dedicated line.

Recommendation #11: The County should strive always to have a person answering the dedicated phone line during business hours. Calls being forwarded from the public to Voicemail during business hours should be done only as a backup procedure and not as a primary means of communication. Procedures should be developed and implemented to assure that callers' queries are addressed in a timely manner.
Recommendation #12: The contract between the County and CalRecycle must specify the terms of payment of insurance proceeds to the State and reimbursement to the County for its insurance-collection costs.
Recommendation #13: The County should develop, approve, print, and adhere to specific procedures under which any delinquent property owners are to be sent to "collections." These procedures should accompany early communications regarding insurance reimbursement.
Recommendation #14: As an example of proactive management, the best interest of its citizens would be served by the County's establishing the working database now for property owners affected by the Clayton and Sulphur Fires
Recommendation #15: Any residual Valley Fire- related information and documents from other departments should be integrated into the database and files created and maintained by Administration.
All 15 recommendation responses from the Board of Supervisors and their Chief Administrative Officer were deemed not warranted or not reasonable. If future Grand Juries or members of the public need to view the underlying explanations for their reasoning, copies of their response will be kept on file at the Kelseyville Grand Jury Building, the offices of Lake County Board of Supervisors, and the State of California Archivist.

RESPONDENT	RESPONSE
Board of Supervisors	The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable.
Chief Administrative Officer	The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable.

LAKE COUNTY CIVIL GRAND JURY CONTINUITY REPORT
The County's Emergency Plan In the Event of a Wildfire

Recommendation #1: Regarding Unified Command, the BOS and the Lake County Sheriff should immediately reconsider where to assign overall authority and responsibility for implementation of the OEP. Considerations should be based on what management configuration could most effectively implement all aspects of the Plan. The BOS should not assign authority and responsibility to the Sheriff's Office simply because it provides the EOC and is responsible for emergency notifications and evacuations.

Recommendation #2: The Sheriff, with current responsibility, should direct the OES to negotiate a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with each of the responsible governmental organization named in the EOP. These MOUs should establish the areas of responsibility and authority and the specific actions each organization is to take in the advent of a wildfire emergency.

RESPONDENT	RESPONSE
Board of Supervisors	The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable.
Lake County Sheriff's Office	The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable.

Recommendation #3: The Sheriff, with current responsibility, should require the OES to develop a plan and negotiate a MOU with each of the incorporated cities as to how the EOC will be manned and managed in an emergency, especially in one crossing jurisdictional boundaries. This plan should include how to establish authority within the EOC initially and how to alter authority as the incident unfolds.

RESPONDENT	RESPONSE
Board of Supervisors	The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable.
Lake County Sheriff's Office	The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable.
City Manager of Lakeport	The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future.

Recommendation #4: The Sheriff, with current responsibility, should require OES to plan with community groups, such as, for example, homeowner's associations and HAM radio operators, as to how the groups will interface with governmental agencies and operate in an emergency. Such negotiated planning should consider the unique nature of individual neighborhoods and include in the planning neighborhood organizations.

RESPONDENT	RESPONSE
Lake County Sheriff's Office	The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future. [no time frame was stated]

Recommendation #5: The Sheriff, with current responsibility, must develop plans and programs for educating residents and non-governmental organizations as to how to respond in the event of a possible or ongoing emergency. Two models would be the materials available through CalFire and the Hidden Valley Lake Association.

RESPONDENT	RESPONSE
Lake County Sheriff's Office	The recommendation requires further analysis [no time frame was stated]

Recommendation #6: The Sheriff, with current responsibility, must develop and implement plans and programs for warning residents and non-governmental organizations of an anticipated or ongoing emergency. The Sheriff must consider that more technical and electrically dependent emergency alert systems may not work in an actual wildfire emergency. Emergency planners should develop and implement more traditional methods of warning, such as sirens with battery backup and block captain systems, tailored to conditions in specific neighborhoods.

RESPONDENT	RESPONSE
Board of Supervisors	The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable.
Lake County Sheriff's Office	The recommendation requires further analysis [no time frame was stated]
City Manager of Lakeport	The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future. [no time frame was stated]

Recommendation #7: The Sheriff, with current responsibility, and the cities must develop plans and programs for evacuating residents, particularly AFN persons, in case of an anticipated or ongoing emergency. Plans should concentrate on NGOs that house numerous persons that cannot provide for their own evacuation, such as nursery schools and nursing homes.

RESPONDENT	RESPONSE
Lake County Sheriff's Office	The recommendation requires further analysis [no time frame was stated]
City Manager of Lakeport	The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future. [no time frame was stated]

Recommendation #8: The Sheriff, with current responsibility, should investigate the issue of effective evacuation from neighborhoods, particularly where egress is limited, such as Anderson Springs and Spring Valley, for example. The Sheriff should develop a program to inform residents and community groups of evacuation protocols and routes. The Sheriff should consider the development of a book of maps showing evacuation routes from neighborhoods, using as models the map book produced by CalFire (Lake County First Responders Map Book) and the evacuation route map created by the Hidden Valley Lake Association and provided to its residents.

RESPONDENT	RESPONSE
Board of Supervisors	The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable.
Lake County Sheriff's Office	The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable.
City Manager of Lakeport	The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future. The City of Lakeport is planning on updating the City's EOP in this fiscal year.

Recommendation #9: The OES should consider how to coordinate with the Lake County Amateur Radio Society (LCARS) and should develop a MOU clarifying LCARS' role in providing vital communication during an emergency.

RESPONDENT	RESPONSE
Lake County Sheriff's Office	The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable.

Recommendation #10: OES should take advantage of the technical expertise of Hams in configuring the proposed OEC antenna to best effect radio transmissions.

RESPONDENT	RESPONSE
Lake County Sheriff's Office	The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable.

LAKE COUNTY CIVIL GRAND JURY CONTINUITY REPORT

Making Connections

Recommendation #1: The County should establish a specific individual to facilitate 'making connections.' This should not be limited to volunteering strictly to support County governmental needs. They should have the responsibility of seeking out areas of organizational or capability needs, and then matching them to the willing and offered citizens or organizations that can assist in those needs. This function should include active outreach specific to these goals across the county in: area councils, citizen groups, NGO's, service organizations. Included should be any internal governance requests/needs for voluntary support identified via existing departmental reporting structures throughout the County.

RESPONDENT	RESPONSE
Board of Supervisors	The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable.
County Administrator	The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable.

Recommendation #2: The County should develop a multi-year financial outlook (five years minimum, ten years preferred) based on current tax/cost/revenue understandings, but should also include potential variations that would alter the forecast in consideration of significant changes (such as tax increases).

RESPONDENT	RESPONSE
Board of Supervisors	The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable.
County Administrator	The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable.

Recommendation #3: Clearlake Animal Control (or the Clearlake City Manager's office) should access the posted videos (on the main county website under administration/ forums/forum videos/ South County Forum between timestamps 1:05:00 and 1:15:00). Contact should be initiated with the citizen offering to foster multiple dogs (and neighbors of the speaker who also are willing to foster multiple animals) with the intent to establish such service.

RESPONDENT	RESPONSE
Clearlake Animal Control Department	N/A
City of Clearlake City Council	N/A

Recommendation #4: The County should review main county website (under administration/ forums/ forum videos/Lakeport Forum timestamp 1:24:00 to 1:25:00) and develop/enhance the grant writing effort and utilize volunteer help where it has been offered. An offer made during the Community Visioning Forums by an individual (ostensibly) experienced in this field to perform the service on a "no cost basis" to the county. This offer was not pursued or investigated. In the time since the forums, a paid County grant writer has been installed instead.

RESPONDENT	RESPONSE
Board of Supervisors	The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable.
County Administrator	The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable.

Recommendation #5: The Senior Centers in Middletown, Lakeport, Lucerne, and Clearlake Oaks should establish contact with the Clearlake Children's Museum of Arts and Sciences (CMAS). This is program (NOT limited to children) that is already providing 'no cost'/low cost art instruction at the Clearlake Senior Center. Contact is to determine if their volunteer service would be of interest/use to those other senior centers.

RESPONDENT	RESPONSE
Board of Supervisors	The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable.

Superior Court of California, County of Lake
(707) 263-2374 x2282

GRAND JURY APPLICATION

If you are selected to serve on the Lake County Grand Jury, during your twelve months on the panel, you will be asked to evaluate and investigate citizens' complaints, interview officials in charge of various County or City or Special District activities, and visit agencies and sites relevant to your area of interest and focus. You will also be asked to write reports based on these investigations, interviews, and visits.

1. Name:_____; Birth Date_____
   Last First Middle

   Street Address: _____

   Mailing Address:_____

   Phone:_____(home);_____(office);_____(cell);

   E-Mail Address: _____; Fax No.:_____

   California Driver's License or I.D. No.:_____

2. Supervisorial District: _____

3. Education: High School_____; Junior College_____; 4-Yr College Graduate :_____

   Post-Graduate_____; Majors:_____; Degrees:_____

   Licenses, Certifications, Credentials_____

4. Occupation(s), past & present:_____
_____
_____

5. How long in Lake County?_____; Are you retired now?_____

6. Special Skills/Knowledge: _____Computer Processing; _____IT; _____Accounting;

   _____Budget Analysis; _____Auditing; _____Management;

   _____Interviewing; _____Research; _____Writing;

   _____Government Services; _____Law Enforcement;

   _____Teaching; _____Law; _____Elected Office

COUNTY OF LAKE

LAKE COUNTY GRAND JURY
P.O. BOX 1078
KELSEYVILLE, CALIFORNIA 95451

COMPLAINT FORM

WHEN COMPLETED – MAIL THIS FORM TO THE ABOVE ADDRESS
ALL COMMUNICATION TO THE GRAND JURY ARE CONFIDENTIAL

This complaint should be submitted after all attempts to resolve a situation have been explores unsuccessfully.

Person or agency your complaint is about

Name and Title

Organization

Address

Telephone

My complaint is (be as precise as possible, providing dates, times, and names of individuals involved. Describe more specific instances instead of making broad statements. Attach any available photographs, correspondence or documentation which pertains to this complaint. Use extra sheets as necessary.)

Other persons or agencies you have contracted about this complaint.

Describe the action you wish the Grand Jury to take.

Using additional sheets provide any further information you feel may be helpful in an investigation.
COMPLAINANT:

Name (please print) Telephone

Address: City: State: Zip Code:

Signature: Date:

Your confidentiality will be vigorously protected. All complaints will be acknowledged promptly.
Please read additional instructions attached.

2018 -2019
LAKE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA
CIVIL GRAND JURY
FINAL REPORT

This mural on the Kelseyville Fire House entitled, “Only the Brave", shows firefighters battling the firedragon which, according to artist Ben vanSteenburgh, depicts “the real courage it takes to stand up to the fires like those that have raged in Lake County, California, and many places across the world.”