



**COUNTY OF LAKE
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

Courthouse - 255 North Forbes Street
Lakeport, California 95453
TELEPHONE (707) 263-2368
FAX (707) 263-2207

Helen Owen – District 1

Bruno Sabatier – District 2

Eddie Crandell – District 3

Brad Rasmussen – District 4

Jessica Pyska – District 5

September 1, 2026

California Strategic Growth Council
1400 Tenth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Letter of Commitment for the Habematolel Pomo of Upper Lake's Grant
Application for a Community Resilience Center (CRC) Program Round 2
Implementation Grant**

Dear California Strategic Growth Council Selection Committee,

The County of Lake strongly supports the Habematolel Pomo of Upper Lake (HPUL) Tribe's application for a Community Resilience Center (CRC) Program Round 2 Implementation Grant through the California Strategic Growth Council.

HPUL, in partnership with the County of Lake and the American Red Cross is seeking support to open and operate an HPUL-owned Community Resilience Center serving Tribal members and the broader Lake County community. The center will function as a cooling shelter during extreme heat, a warming shelter during cold weather, and provide a facility with electricity during power shutoffs, and an evacuation shelter during wildfires and other declared emergencies. The County of Lake does not own and operate a facility that can serve the community during these types of events, and having another American Red Cross-approved shelter at the other end of the county will better serve our community during times of disasters.

Planned facilities include a commercial kitchen capable of feeding evacuees and volunteers, shower and hygiene facilities, green space and shaded outdoor cooling areas, and flexible community space that supports year-round services and resilience programming. The CRC Program is intended to help communities prepare for and respond to climate-related emergencies while providing precisely this kind of ongoing community benefit.

Lake County faces increasing threats from wildfires, extreme heat, smoke events, power shutoffs, flooding, and other climate-related emergencies. As one of California's rural and underserved regions, many residents, including Tribal communities, seniors, low-income households and individuals with disabilities, have limited access to facilities and resources that support emergency preparedness and disaster response. Today, there is no facility in the area equipped to shelter, feed and care for residents through a multi-day emergency.

This project builds on an important federal investment already secured for the community. Congressman Mike Thompson successfully championed a \$3.15 million HUD Community Project Funding award to support construction of a Tribal Community Center for HPUL. The requested CRC implementation funding would build directly on that investment by delivering the facility improvements, emergency systems, backup power, kitchen and hygiene infrastructure, outdoor cooling features and operational capacity the center needs to open as a fully functioning resilience and emergency response facility serving both Tribal and non-Tribal residents. Federal dollars are putting the building in place, and State investment would make it operational when residents need it most.

The partnership between HPUL, the County of Lake and the American Red Cross represents a collaborative approach to community resilience that combines Tribal leadership, local government coordination, emergency preparedness and expertise. Together, the partners will activate the center during emergency events, coordinate shelter operations with countywide response systems, staff and sustain year-round programming.

The proposed project aligns with California's goals of supporting Tribal communities, increasing climate resilience, strengthening emergency preparedness, and improving outcomes for rural and underserved populations. By investing in a facility that opens its doors to the community during heat waves, cold snaps, smoke events, and evacuations, the State will help protect lives, improve disaster response capabilities, and enhance community well-being for generations to come.

Once again, the Habematolel Pomo of Upper Lake Tribe and its partners continue to demonstrate strong community mindedness and as a result, they have our support for this important initiative and the Community Resilience Center Implementation Grant application. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you require any additional information.

Respectfully,

Chair
Lake County Board of Supervisors
COUNTY OF LAKE