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LARS EWING
Interim Director

MEMORANDUM

To: Lake County Board of Supervisors

From: Lars Ewing, Interim Public Works Director

Subject: 2024-2025 Civil Grand Jury Final Report
Final Report: Does Lake Pillsbury Have a Future?

Date: November 25, 2025

The Public Works Department offers the following supplemental response to the 2024-2025 Lake County Civil Grand Jury Report, "Does Lake Pillsbury Have a Future?":

Finding #F-6: *"All the roads in the Lake Pillsbury area are in dire need of repair."*

Response to Finding:

The Department of Public Works appreciates the Grand Jury's attention to the condition of the road network serving the Lake Pillsbury area. We agree that many roads in this region are in poor condition and are in need of significant repair or reconstruction.

While we share the Grand Jury's concern, our ability to address these needs is constrained by the limited resources available to maintain more than 600 miles of County roadway. Furthermore, current transportation funding – principally tied to fuel taxes, and nominally supplemented by non-discretionary competitive state and federal grants – is not sufficient to fully meet systemwide needs, particularly in remote areas requiring extensive investment. As a result, the County must prioritize maintenance and repair efforts based on safety considerations, traffic volumes, and available funding.

It is also important to note that the combination of challenging terrain, harsh weather, and limited maintenance access has contributed to deterioration over time. Additionally, much of the road system in the Lake Pillsbury area, and the county as a whole, was not originally constructed to modern engineering standards. Several segments began as minimally built access routes and were never designed for sustained vehicle use, year-round maintenance, or heavy loads. This original construction limitation significantly compounds today's maintenance and rehabilitation challenges, requiring far more resources than would typically be needed for roads with engineered foundations and drainage systems.

Public Works remains committed to pursuing feasible opportunities to improve the County-maintained road network in the Lake Pillsbury area. This includes continuing to seek grant funding, coordinating with partner agencies, and identifying cost-effective maintenance strategies where possible. With additional dedicated funding, the County would be in a stronger position to implement the level of rehabilitation work warranted in the area.

We appreciate the Grand Jury's recognition of these challenges and its encouragement to improve conditions for the Lake Pillsbury community. Public Works will continue to work within available resources to address the most critical needs and pursue future funding opportunities that may enable more comprehensive improvements. While we value the input of the Civil Grand Jury, "Disagree" is the most appropriate available response, given the extreme nature of the language used in the finding.