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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Hazard Mitigation Planning: Public Comment Sought

LAKE COUNTY, CA –The Lake County Sheriff's Office of Emergency Services (Lake County OES) seeks public comment on the Hazard Mitigation Plan Update working draft. While this is *not* a polished, final draft, Lake County OES encourages public participation and has made the draft available to allow ample time for review and edits before the final draft is submitted to Cal OES by early summer. **All comments on this first, working draft, are due May 1, 2023, by 5:00PM.**

The Plan Update began in September 2022, when the Board of Supervisors established a Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee (HMPC) chaired by Lake County OES and comprised of County and local stakeholders including one member from each supervisorial district.

Since initiation, four planning committee meetings and four public information sessions have been held. Information from each meeting and session is available online at www.lakesheriff.com/about/oes/hmp. Lake County OES facilitated the Plan Update and engaged various County Department's and stakeholders (referred to as the working group) to complete each section. In addition to individual hazard profiles, the first four chapters are available to review and provide comment.

While this is a working draft, some areas show "pending" and will be released during a second round of public comment when the final chapters are also complete.

About the Plan

Floods, drought, wildfires, and severe weather are just a few of the hazards of concern in Lake County. While natural hazards such as these cannot be entirely prevented, Hazard Mitigation Plans form the foundation for a community's long-term strategy to reduce disaster-related losses, by breaking the repeated cycle of disaster damage and reconstruction.

Developing and maintaining the LHMP is a requirement of the Federal Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (*DMA 2000*). Plans expire every five years and must be updated to maintain eligibility for certain federal disaster assistance and hazard mitigation funding programs. Lake County's LHMP was last updated and approved by FEMA in July, 2018.

Public Participation Encouraged

To view the working draft, visit www.lakesheriff.com/about/OES/HMP.

Additional opportunities for information and feedback are available several ways:

- * Follow www.facebook.com/lakecountyOES for ongoing public information and education regarding hazard mitigation and all things emergency management.

- * Visit any Lake County Library branch to review hard copies of all planning components during the planning process.

- * Visit www.lakesheriff.com/about/OES/HMP to learn more about hazard mitigation, the planning process and progress, upcoming events and more.

Please submit all comments by email to lakesheriffoes@lakecountyca.gov.

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