



COUNTY OF LAKE

Administrative Office

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CAROL J. HUCHINGSON

County Administrative Officer

October 6, 2016

Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC)

2590 Venture Oaks Way

Sacramento, CA. 95833

Attention: Ms. Kathleen Howard, Executive Director

Dear Ms. Howard,

By the direction of the Lake County Board of Supervisors, and with the concurrence of Lake County Sheriff Brian Martin, I am writing to inform BSCC that Lake County is relinquishing its grant for jail expansion pursuant to SB 1022.

You may be aware that over the past 13 months, Lake County has suffered from massive wildfires which have incinerated more than 22% of our total land mass. These devastating fires have destroyed over 1,500 homes and numerous local businesses. In light of these unprecedented disasters, Lake County is unable to foresee a day when it can fund the cost of increased staffing and operations associated with jail expansion and therefore, with regret, we are unable to move forward with the project.

Relinquishing this grant does not mean that Lake County will not have need for expansion in the years to come. With this in mind, we are already in communication with Mendocino County, our neighbor to the west. As you are no doubt aware, Mendocino has a jail expansion project pending and our two counties are interested in a regionalized solution in the future.

Pursuant to SB 1022, regionalization would not have been possible for Lake County's jail expansion project since the terms of the legislation made it clear that we could not rent inmate beds space to other counties. Ideally, if Mendocino's project were to include additional beds to house mentally ill inmates, Lake County could benefit greatly from placing inmates there when local capacity is exceeded.

For these reasons, we support Mendocino's project, we encourage your Board to approve it for funding and we encourage your Board to consider regionalized solutions as well.

Sincerely,


Carol J. Huchingson
Lake County Administrative Officer

CC: Brian Martin, Lake County Sheriff
Carmel Angelo, Mendocino County CEO