Reports -

LAKE COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

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Date: October 21, 2026

To: Redbud Community Health Board

From: Fire Chief Willie Sapeta, on behalf of LCFPD and LCFCA

Subject: Type VI Wildland Engine, Tablet Command, and Portable Hydrant Projects – Status Update

Dear Members of the Redbud Community Health Board,

On behalf of the Lake County Fire Protection District (LCFPD) and the Lake County Fire Chiefs Association (LCFCA), I would like to express our sincere appreciation for your continued support and investment in maintaining a high standard of fire protection, emergency medical services (EMS), and rescue services throughout Lake County.

We are pleased to provide the following updates on the three projects your generous contributions have helped advance. Each initiative strengthens our operational capabilities, improves firefighter readiness, and enhances our ability to protect the communities we serve.

1. LCFPD Type VI Wildland Engine

The cab and chassis for the new Type VI wildland engine have been delivered to the manufacturer. The vehicle is scheduled to enter the production phase in March 2027, with an estimated build and delivery timeline of approximately eight months.

Upon delivery, we plan to recognize Redbud Community Health Board's generous support through a social media announcement and photographs highlighting the new apparatus and your contribution to strengthening our local wildland firefighting capabilities.

2. LCFCA Tablet Command Project

As we enter the fourth year of grant funding, the 40 Tablet Command licenses continue to be an invaluable resource for fire and emergency response agencies throughout Lake County. This technology supports real-time situational awareness, resource tracking, and incident command, helping ensure that the closest appropriate resources can be identified and dispatched efficiently.

In addition to their daily use in the command, control, and accountability of local emergency resources, these licenses were utilized this past summer during out-of-county assignments to the Feliz, Gann, Timber, and Plasket fires. Their use on these incidents demonstrates the continued value of this technology in supporting both local operations and regional mutual-aid deployments.

3. LCFPD Portable Hydrant Project

The portable hydrant units were deployed during the Lucas Fire, demonstrating their practical value in supporting firefighting operations. Multiple training sessions have also been conducted to ensure personnel are familiar with the equipment and prepared to deploy it effectively when needed.

Looking ahead, we have also discussed the potential use of these units to assist with water removal in flood-prone areas as we prepare for the possibility of El Niño-related weather impacts throughout Lake County. The participating agencies have agreed to support the deployment and maintenance of these units on a 24-hour, seven-day-a-week, year-round basis.

This project provides our fire districts with an important alternative water-supply capability, improving operational flexibility during emergencies while helping preserve community domestic water supplies whenever feasible.

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These three projects represent meaningful investments in the safety, preparedness, and resilience of our communities. Your continued partnership helps our agencies strengthen emergency response capabilities, protect critical resources, and better serve the residents and visitors of Lake County.

We are grateful for your confidence in our mission and for the continued support of the Redbud Community Health Board. Should you have any questions or require additional information regarding these projects, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you again for your partnership and commitment to the safety and well-being of our communities.

Respectfully submitted,

Willie Sapeta
Fire Chief
Lake County Fire Protection District
On behalf of the Lake County Fire Chiefs Association