

This was a week that demonstrated the strength, resiliency and creativity of Lake County's residents and leadership.

Our First Responders of all kinds once again proved they are among the most compassionate and technically excellent of public servants. From Sheriff Martin's timely videos keeping the public informed at each step, to the numerous coordination efforts and tireless advocacy of Undersheriff Chris Macedo, Office of Emergency Services Director Dale Carnathan, and many many others behind the scenes, our Sheriff's office was truly extraordinary.

Lake County's Cal Fire and independent Fire District personnel were amazing, as well. We started the week with major wildfires at two of our borders, several smaller fire events occurred over the course of the week, and the need for evacuations could have been so much greater, were it not for the efforts of so many, and resources coming from throughout the state. John Owens, Assistant Chief from Cal Fire's San Luis Obispo Unit worked closely with Sheriff's Office personnel and others, providing invaluable support; that is just one example, and many spent day after day away from their families in the context of a pervasive PSPS to keep our communities safe.

Thank you, thank you, thank you!

Whenever Lake County faces disaster conditions, as we have an unparalleled 11 times since 2015, many organizations rise to serve. Thanks, particularly, to Health Services and Department of Social Services staff for planning for so many contingencies this week. Both organizations provide great service to all 65,000 Lake County residents and otherwise connected individuals every day, and they always particularly step up in disaster.

Thank you!

Our Buildings and Grounds staff set aside even high value projects to ensure as many County offices as possible could continue services to the public. Many within and outside of our Public Services department devoted significant hours to procuring generators and undertaking coordination efforts, in the interest of delivering very power-dependent services that all of us in Lake County rely on.

These efforts were largely unseen, but we appreciate them very much!

To Special Districts staff, for overcoming generator and other issues to keep critical infrastructure intact and in service, and for providing water to so many County residents, despite emerging challenges and lack of PG&E-delivered power. Even as they managed very long work hours, and undoubtedly family and other needs brought by outages, staff were very professional and thoughtful throughout.

Thank you!

Many forms of communications depended upon connectivity, and the County's Information Technology staff did a remarkable job ensuring exchange of critical, time sensitive data was possible, despite unusual and difficult circumstances. Thank you, IT, for your robust and creative support!

Every one of these efforts needed to be financed, and the Board, County Administration, County financial offices and others had to make some very complex decisions in recent months, in the context of fiscal crisis.

As one example, providing payroll and critical disaster finance services to not only County government, but numerous Special Districts, including those overseen by the County Office of Education, is a big job under any circumstances, and Lake County's award-winning Auditor-Controller, Cathy Saderlund, and her team once again responded with the highest standard of professionalism, despite being understaffed.

All County Department Heads and hundreds of County staff, as well as those in our many partner public agencies, had significant roles to play, and we are grateful they continue to answer the call, disaster after disaster, and persist in serving with excellence and insight.

Our City and Tribal Government partners were also truly exceptional. This Thursday's joint meeting of the Board of Supervisors and City Councils, which included key input from multiple Lake County Tribal leaders, was a very positive step in Lake County's response to the PSPS Events that are hitting local businesses and some of our most vulnerable really hard.

There is clearly much more work to be done, and we have heard from you that we need to keep pressing forward. A committee of local leaders will work with regional partners to take targeted and meaningful action, based on the Public Input so many generously provided.

Enough is enough, when the eldest and youngest among us are sitting in darkened rooms, with chattering teeth.

Enough is enough, when PG&E's CEO, Bill Johnson, after a month rife with true humanitarian crisis, speaks to countless Californians who can't afford to replace spoiled food, by saying:

"These events can be hard on people, really hard on people, particularly people who have struggles anyways and there are community-based things you can do, food banks, these kind of things. But for us, you know the main thing is we didn't cause any fires, we didn't, for these people we didn't burn down any houses, the Kincade fire is still under investigation, I got that, but one of the things we did was give them the opportunity to actually refill their refrigerator 'cause their house is still there."

How many non-profit organizations and public agencies scrambled to fill social gaps that had no direct precedent in the month of October?

How many residents demonstrated incredible self-determination and strength to limit the degree to which we were collectively affected?

Truly, together, we are strong. We are industrious. We are innovative.

Faced with uncertainty brought by the Kincade Fire, a threat all too familiar, District 1 residents showed both patience and resolve, despite the fact some had been without power due to the 10/23, 10/26 and 10/29 PSPS Events.

Many of those were Valley Fire survivors, and we are particularly sorry that so many comments in the public sphere by PG&E and others were so insensitive and out of touch this week, in light of all our wildfire survivors and others have endured.

Lake County and all of the people connected with our diverse communities are truly extraordinary, and we at the County of Lake consider it the highest honor and privilege to serve and represent on your behalf every day.

You are still sacrificing to keep the doors of your businesses open and restore normalcy in home lives. You are still facing really tough decisions that no one should have to make.

As YOUR local government, our work is not done, just because the power is back on.

Thank you for standing alongside us, keeping us informed of your needs, where you are at, what matters most to your families.

Thank you for engaging in the governance of your communities and our State, and for helping us fight back and overcome.

Thank you for facing and seeing beyond immediate obstacles, and working toward a better future for our children and every individual in our communities.

Your voices and your work matter.

Thank you, Lake County!