



Lake County Fire Safe Council Charter

Last revised July 10, 2025

Introduction

Given the partnership-driven nature of the Lake County Fire Safe Council (LCFSC) and its commitment to playing a convening role¹ on behalf of Lake County organizations engaged in wildfire resilience work, the “Lake County Fire Safe Council Charter” was developed in an effort to establish effective working agreements and clarify roles and responsibilities among partners. **This charter is meant to reflect a commitment to and celebration of partnership.**

This document outlines the following:

1. Lake County’s Community Vision and LCFSC’s organizational purpose;
2. Principles of practice and member commitments;
3. LCFSC’s membership model;
4. LCFSC operations and LCRCD staff’s responsibilities;
5. LCFSC governance; and
6. LCFSC’s feedback and decision-making processes.

Key Definitions

- **Lake County Fire Safe Council:** LCFSC refers to the broad network of members and partners engaged in wildfire resilience work across Lake County.
- **Lake County Resource Conservation District:** LCRCD is a special district of the State of California and the administering entity of the LCFSC.
- **Member:** Members are groups, entities, and organizations that work with LCFSC in a collaborative capacity and have demonstrated their commitment by signing this charter.
- **Advisory Committee:** The Advisory Committee will consist of a minimum of five and maximum of seven nominated representatives of LCFSC partners and play an advisory role on behalf of LCFSC.

Community Vision²

Lake County is a wildfire-adapted landscape. The Lake County wildfire mitigation network is composed of committed agencies, organizations, Tribal governments, and residents and is characterized by robust engagement, clear roles, collective responsibility, and equitably prioritized wildfire resilience projects. Together, these groups ensure the safety of Lake County’s communities and the health of its landscapes while fostering an awareness of the beneficial and cultural uses of fire among residents and landowners. The greater community welcomes and values Tribal leadership and Traditional/ancestral knowledge as Tribal governments and culture bearers are willing and interested in providing it. Resources and opportunities related to wildfire resilience are proactively made available to all community members.

¹ The Lake County Fire Safe Council (LCFSC) completed the “Lake County Fire Safe Council Strategic Plan: 2025-2030” in February 2025 with input gathered through the 2024-2025 Preparedness, Engagement, Action, and Resiliency (PEAR) workshops held on October 29, 2024 and January 10, 2025.

² The Community Vision emerged through the 2024-2025 PEAR workshops; the final language incorporates two rounds of participant feedback.

Organizational Purpose

LCFSC convenes partners to coordinate wildfire resilience work and standardize messaging across Lake County and empowers all residents with the educational, physical, and financial resources to proactively protect their family, property, and community from wildfire.

Principles of Practice and Member Commitments

LCFSC members and partners commit to adhering to the following principles³ in order to realize the Community Vision:

1. **Regular Participation & Attendance**
Consistently attend and participate in monthly LCFSC meetings.
2. **Collaboration & Capacity Building**
Actively coordinate efforts to secure funding, reduce competition, align county-wide wildfire resilience priorities, and expand the capacity of local organizations to effectively implement wildfire mitigation programs.
3. **Support for Tribal Leadership & Knowledge**
Welcome and integrate Tribal leadership and knowledge into wildfire resilience efforts while respecting Tribal sovereignty and interests.
4. **Information Sharing & Transparency**
Within organizational boundaries, be responsive to requests for project data to support CWPP tracking, project dashboard maintenance, and ongoing evaluation efforts. Provide timely updates on important events and deadlines to LCRCD staff for inclusion in LCFSC's shared calendar hosted at firesafelake.org.

Membership

Members of the public are always welcome to join LCFSC meetings as participants and provide input at designated comment periods, provided they engage respectfully. Formal LCFSC membership, however, is limited to organizations, entities, or groups (not individuals) that:

- Are a local Fire Safe Council (FSC), Prescribed Burn Association, Firewise Community, government entity, or other not-for-profit wildfire resilience-related community group with a Lake County mailing address and/or clearly demonstrable vested interest in Lake County;
- Are supportive of the Community Vision, LCFSC's organizational purpose, and the principles of practice outlined in this document; and
- Have attended at least two regular LCFSC meetings prior to seeking membership.

Members of the public are always welcome to join LCFSC meetings as participants and provide input at designated comment periods, provided they engage respectfully.

Prospective members will indicate their interest in joining LCFSC to LCRCD staff and/or be invited by existing LCFSC members. Applicants will be considered at the next regular LCFSC meeting, approved by current LCFSC members, and processed by LCRCD staff. Once approved, new members will complete an onboarding form provided by LCRCD staff and sign onto the "Lake County Fire Safe Council Charter".

³ These principles are based on the discussion generated and priorities identified through the 2024-2025 PEAR workshops.

Operations

LCFSC is administered by LCRCD⁴, including its staff and Board of Directors.

Lake County Resource Conservation District Staff

LCFSC is committed to playing a convening role on behalf of its members and partners in order to sustain momentum and ensure collective progress towards the Community Vision. This role and its associated activities are captured in the “Lake County Fire Safe Council Strategic Plan: 2025-2030”.

In support of LCFSC’s convening role⁵, LCRCD staff make decisions on the following:

1. Internal, operations-related decisions that directly support LCFSC’s convening role, including agenda development, meeting facilitation, etc.;
2. Activities that support LCFSC communications, including newsletter development and distribution and participation in community outreach events;
3. Activities related to fundraising that directly maintain existing LCFSC programming;
4. Activities that fall outside the scope of LCFSC’s convening role, including Spanish language outreach and defensible space programming; and
5. Other activities related to advancing specific goals and objectives identified in the “Lake County Fire Safe Council Strategic Plan”, including communicating with local FSCs and Firewise Communities and coordinating with CAL FIRE as the county-level Regional Coordinator.

Governance

Lake County Resource Conservation District Board of Directors

The LCRCD Board of Directors recognizes that LCFSC membership constitutes the heart of LCFSC programming and that members’ collective wisdom and experience continuously shapes the direction of LCFSC along with the objectives laid out in the Lake County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP). As such, the LCRCD Board of Directors commits to heeding the insights and recommendations of the LCFSC Advisory Committee when considering decisions that affect LCFSC programming and operations.

As the governing entity of LCRCD, the [Board of Directors](#) has authority over the following activities:

- Approving annual organizational budgets and amendments;
- Authorizing funding applications over \$500,000 for submission;
- Establishing organizational policies, including administrative and personnel-related policies;
- Approving entering into Memorandums of Understanding (MOU); and
- Adopting and updating strategic plans.

Lake County Fire Safe Council Advisory Committee

The Advisory Committee will play an advisory role on behalf of LCFSC, ensuring that LCFSC programming remains responsive to the evolving needs and interests of LCFSC members. Together, Advisory Committee members will ideally reflect the full spectrum of partners

⁴ LCFSC was previously an ad hoc committee of the Lake County Board of Supervisors and became a program officially administered by LCRCD in early 2023.

⁵ For an articulation of LCFSC’s role as a supportive and convening entity, see the “Lake County Fire Safe Council Strategic Plan: 2025-2030” in Appendix A.

engaged in wildfire resilience work in Lake County, including representation from at least two local FSCs.

Responsibilities

The Advisory Committee will:

- Work with LCRCD staff on behalf of LCFSC members to identify strategic priorities;
- Send at least one representative to monthly LCRCD Board of Directors meetings to share updates and offer recommendations to the Board of Directors as necessary;
- Review and make recommendations to update the “Lake County Fire Safe Council Strategic Plan” to reflect evolving goals, strategies, and actions as necessary; and
- Review and make recommendations to update the “Lake County Fire Safe Council Charter” to reflect evolving partnerships, roles, and responsibilities as necessary.

The Advisory Committee is composed of a minimum of five and maximum of seven LCFSC members that serve up to three consecutive two-year terms.⁶ It meets on a quarterly basis and holds additional special meetings as necessary. The group makes decisions by consensus (see, a description of which is located below). Advisory Committee meetings will be coordinated and facilitated by LCRCD staff.

Process

Advisory Committee membership is limited to LCFSC partner representatives that:

- Have a Lake County mailing address and/or clearly demonstrable vested interest in Lake County;
- Are supportive of the Community Vision, LCFSC’s organizational purpose, and the principles of practice outlined in this document; and
- Have attended more than 50% of regular LCFSC meetings for at least six months.

The Advisory Committee appointment process is as follows:

1. Nominations of individuals to serve on the Advisory Committee will occur as needed at a regularly scheduled monthly LCFSC meeting, and LCFSC members will be notified in advance of the meeting at which nominations are set to occur;
2. Any member representative present at a LCFSC meeting or LCRCD staff may nominate an individual to serve on the Advisory Committee, and any nominated individual may decline their nomination; and
3. LCRCD staff will facilitate a voting process to select a minimum of five and maximum of seven Advisory Committee members.

Feedback and Decision-Making Processes

LCFSC members make decisions on the following topics:

- Approval of CWPP and/or other wildfire resilience project priorities;
- Collaborative funding proposal development and submission;
- Updates to the Community Vision and associated indicators of success; and
- Nomination and selection of Advisory Committee members.

⁶ LCFSC will convene the Advisory Committee by September 2025.

Consent-Based Decision-Making

Consent-based decision-making will take place through multiple rounds of conversation. First, participants will establish clarity on what is being presented or brought to the group, and the individual(s) presenting will work to ensure shared understanding. Second, the group will provide space for initial reactions and encourage participants to voice differing opinions and/or perspectives. Third, participants will have the opportunity to raise objections and/or concerns. An **objection** is defined as an argument that reveals consequences or risks that are preferably avoided for the organization or that demonstrates worthwhile ways to improve the idea. A **concern** is defined as an assumption that cannot be backed up by reasoning or enough evidence to become an objection. After these subsequent rounds of conversation have concluded, the group will determine whether or not consensus can be reached.

Consensus hinges on three factors: (1) all participating individuals understand the decision to be made; (2) all participating individuals like but do not have to love the outcome; and (3) all participating individuals are willing to support the outcome publicly and privately. Consent-based decisions will include all those present for any given decision-making conversation. Members are limited to one vote per member organization, entity, or group.

The five-point scale below will be used:

5	I strongly agree.
4	I agree.
3	Neutral.
2	I do not like it, but I will support the group's decision.
1	I cannot support it and will block the decision.

Decisions will move forward when 50% or more of the members in attendance vote 3, 4, or 5 and no members in attendance vote 1. Decisions will be made at regular LCFSC meetings, and dissenting views will be recorded in the meeting minutes. When the larger group determines that participation from specific members not in attendance is necessary, LCRCD staff will contact those members directly via phone or email to solicit the

Appendix

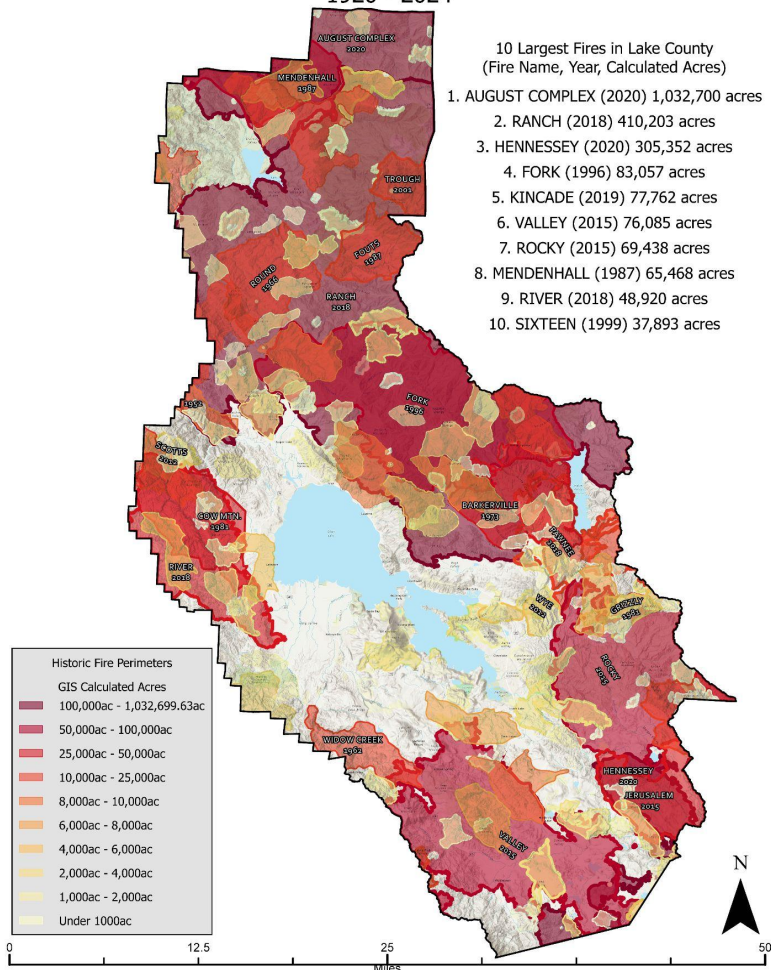
Lake County Fire Safe Council Strategic Plan: 2025-2030

This document describes a strategic plan developed for the Lake County Fire Safe Council (LCFSC) based on an all-day retreat conducted with Lake County Resource Conservation District (LCRCD) staff on December 17, 2024. It was later refined with community input via the second Preparedness, Action, Engagement, and Resiliency (PEAR) workshop hosted by LCFSC on January 10, 2025; focused review by an advisory committee; and additional feedback from other Lake County community members. The planning horizon for this document is from 2025-2030. It is important to note that the successful operationalization of this strategic plan is dependent on the consistent availability of dedicated funding. Likewise, many of the goals outlined within it can only be achieved with the committed collaboration of partners, as laid out in this LCFSC charter. This full document can be found in pdf form [here](#).

Lake County Fire History Map:

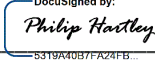
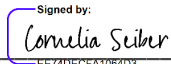
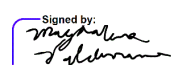


Lake County Fire History
1920 - 2024



Members

I, the undersigned, concur with this charter and will participate in the Lake County Fire Safe Council and represent my organization to the best of my ability.

1. Signed  _____ Date: 11/19/2025
Name: Philip Hartley Organization: Riviera West HOA
2. Signed  _____ Date: 10/27/2025
Name: Cornelia Seiber Organization: Scotts Valley Community Advisory Council
3. Signed  _____ Date: 12/10/2025
Name: Magdalena Valderrama Organization: Seigler Springs Community Redevelopment Association
4. Signed _____ Date: _____
Name: _____ Organization: _____
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