



**COUNTY OF LAKE
TREASURER-TAX COLLECTOR**

Courthouse - 255 North Forbes Street
Lakeport, California 95453
Tax Collector: (707) 263-2234
Treasury: (707) 263-2236
Collections: (707) 263-2583
FAX: (707) 263-2254

BARBARA C. RINGEN
Treasurer-Tax Collector

ELIZABETH MARTINEZ
Assistant Treasurer – Tax Collector

September 13, 2019

Honorable Andrew S. Blum
Presiding Judge
Lake County Superior Court
255 N. Forbes Street
Lakeport, CA 95453

Subject: 2018-19 Grand Jury Report, "Lake County's Fire Protection Districts"

As you are aware, the 2018-19 Grand Jury required my office respond to its report, "Lake County's Fire Protection Districts." This response is submitted, pursuant to Penal Code Section 933.05. I am grateful for the efforts of the Grand Jury to encourage effective local governance.

The Recommendations made by the Grand Jury do not entirely fall within the authority of my office; as you may be aware, the Auditor-Controller's office calculates and controls which parcels receive the charges. Nonetheless, I appreciate the opportunity to respond, and will do so within the legal boundaries of my authority.

"Lake County's Fire Protection Districts"

R2. Proposal of flat-rate parcel taxes would be less confusing to voters than the current "units of benefit" calculation.

DISAGREE, will not be implemented.

Explanation: The Treasurer-Tax Collector's office does not determine how fire fees are charged. Our Fire Protection Districts are independent entities, with their own governing boards and staff. My office will appropriately respond to requests for information from our Fire Protection Districts.

R8. "The Lake County Assessor/Recorder and Treasurer/Tax Collector should work closely with the Lake Pillsbury FPD to determine the total number of taxable properties, with a view toward actively assisting the District with a new parcel-tax measure.

DISAGREE, will not be implemented.

Explanation: Again, my office will appropriately respond to any requests for information, should a Fire Protection District determine to prepare a new parcel tax measure for the consideration of their constituents. If any of our Fire Protection Districts have interest, the County's Information Technology department can derive lists of taxable properties by Tax Rate Area (TRA).

Thank you, Honorable Judge Blum, and members of the Grand Jury, for considering of this response.

Sincerely,

Barbara C. Ringen
Treasurer – Tax Collector
County of Lake

SEP 13 2019