

**Buckingham Homes Association, Ltd.**  
Annual Meeting  
2023

Dear Buckingham Residents,

Unfortunately, I am not able to attend this year's annual meeting. However, I prepared some updates on matters important to all who live in Buckingham.

Please know I always appreciate and value the opportunity to connect with Buckingham residents and understand your priorities and needs; quality communication is essential and helps our Board and the County of Lake effectively serve communities.

**Fire Safe Council Evacuation Grant**

Last year, we received a **\$380K Evacuation Grant** through a joint effort of the County and Konocti Fire Safe Council. There are two components of the grant- *Evacuation Planning* and *Vegetation Removal*.

*Evacuation Plan* – Headway Transportation Consultants is developing the Local Evacuation Plan for the Soda Bay Corridor. On June 9, we had a kickoff meeting with County staff and an initial “all-agency” planning meeting. Draft documents have been prepared for internal review, and a public meeting is in the initial planning stages.

*Vegetation Removal* – The Board approved a contract with CLERC to manage the tree removal portion of the grant; they will coordinate with Konocti Fire Safe Council to assist with marking trees and “Right of Entry” forms that permit work on private property. The County’s Department of Public Works has purchased equipment to help clear vegetation along the roadways. More information on the timing of project elements will be provided, as available.

**Black Forest Fuel-Reduction Work**

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Tribal EcoRestoration Alliance (TERA) for fuel-reduction work in the Black Forest. BLM staffing and resource limitations have delayed this important priority, and this partnership is a significant step forward.

*“The Tribal EcoRestoration Alliance is a cross-cultural, multi-organizational collaborative that works to revitalize ecology, economy, and culture through indigenous-led stewardship.”*  
More information available at <https://www.tribalecorestoration.org/>

**Emergency Alerts and Communications**

“Zonehaven Aware” has changed its name to “Genasys Protect.” Zones and other program elements are unchanged: <https://www.lakecountyca.gov/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=82>

Please sign up for all emergency alerts (*LakeCoAlerts, Nixle*) at <https://www.LakeSheriff.com/>

### **Zone of Benefit**

Code Enforcement reports many have already mitigated vegetation concerns on their own properties, which is great news. Staff received a revised quote from Northshore Fire and has started to prepare the Agreement for work to begin. Thank you for your collaboration and patience as this program has taken shape, we are excited progress has been made!

### **Home Insurance Availability and Affordability Crisis**

As you are all aware, Homeowners Insurance has reached a crisis point in Lake County, and the State of California, more broadly; high rates, cancellations, and the California “Fair Plan” are making it difficult for far too many residents to secure appropriate and sustainably affordable coverage. Many of you will be aware, I invited the Department of Insurance to provide an update and respond to residents’ concerns at the Board of Supervisors’ May 23 Meeting:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h1R26jul7qo>

That discussion raised awareness of what is happening here in Lake County. Konocti Fire Safe Council members highlighted realities of our dire situation. I asked Department of Insurance staff to return after they have considered our needs and gathered further data. That next presentation will occur in about 6 months, and we sincerely hope this next update reflects much greater understanding of Lake County’s concerns.

### **Economic Development, Housing, and Strategic Plan**

The Board of Supervisors has dedicated a substantial portion of our American Rescue Act “ARPA” Funding toward development of a Strategic Plan, and creation of two new positions within our Administration Office; one to focus entirely on Economic Development, and the other entirely on Housing. Both are critical to qualify for Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill funding.

Ben Rickelman came to us in May after a nationwide search to head up Economic Development (*he lives in Buckingham and plans to attend this meeting*). Ben has been quickly working to understand and begin acting on Lake County’s needs. He recently presented a work plan to the Board, focusing on broadband, EV charging stations, hotel attraction, and the development of our county-wide Strategic Plan, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZHhtbFWWhkg>. If Ben is in attendance, please allow him to introduce himself, he is an outstanding asset to Lake County!

The Housing position has not yet been filled, but we are getting close! Our Housing lead will develop a Master Plan analyzing housing supply, determining needs, and attracting developers!

### **Bi-Partisan Infrastructure Bill**

From July 21-July 24, I represented Lake County at the National Association of Counties (NACo) conference in Austin, Texas. I was able to gather resources on the “unprecedented” Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill, and how Lake County can access everything available to us. There are *billions* of dollars intended to flow to rural and disadvantaged counties like ours, and pre-planning efforts and staffing adjustments of the past few years have positioned us to take advantage of these opportunities.

**Konocti Fire Safe Council**

This dedicated, proactive, and assertive group continues to advocate for the safety and well-being of the community, and relentlessly go above and beyond measures we see in any other area of Lake County.

I want to express my gratitude to Bill Groody, and the members of the other Riviera HOAs.

Your tireless efforts are truly making a difference and it is a privilege to work alongside you!

Again, I always appreciate the opportunity to come to Buckingham to listen to you experiences, share the work and priorities of the Board of Supervisors and staff, and highlight steps I am taking on behalf of District 5 residents that are important and relevant to you.

Please do not hesitate to reach out for more information or concerns you may have.

Thanks,

Jessica Pyska

District 5 Supervisor

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