

LAKE COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

14815 OLYMPIC DRIVE, CLEARLAKE,
CALIFORNIA 95422
707-994-2170 PHONE 707-994-4861 FAX

V-1

Good morning,

The Lake County Fire Protection District is exploring a Wildland Local Government Agreement (LG-W) with CAL FIRE. I wanted to provide an overview of what the agreement is and outline the steps involved as we decide to formally pursue one.

What an LG-W Agreement Is

A Wildland Local Government Agreement is a cooperative agreement authorized under PRC 4142 that allows CAL FIRE to provide **wildland fire protection services** within a local agency's Local Responsibility Area (LRA).

These agreements apply **only to wildland fire protection**—the local agency retains full responsibility for **structural fire protection**.

LG-W agreements are typically appropriate when:

- The LRA contains wildland fuels and wildfire risk similar to State Responsibility Area (SRA).
- The area is adjacent to or operationally aligned with existing CAL FIRE protection areas.
- The arrangement does not negatively impact CAL FIRE's ability to protect SRA lands.
- The agency participates on a **full-cost-recovery** basis using the statewide per-acre wildland rate.

Overview of the LG-W Request Process

The process generally includes the following steps:

1. Initial Coordination

The agency (Lake County Fire Protection District) submits a formal letter expressing interest in entering into an LG-W agreement. The Unit then conducts a preliminary discussion and reviews the proposed protection area and operational needs.

2. Mapping and Acreage Determination

CAL FIRE works with your agency to develop a GIS map that clearly identifies the LRA acreage under consideration. Acreage totals serve as the basis for cost calculations.

Area of coverage from West of Hwy 53 @ Cache Creek North to just North of Polk Avenue. This would include Genasys Zones: CLE-130, 148, 155, and 157 which are comprised of the following values.

- a. Population: 2,615
- b. Vehicles: 7,444
- c. Structures: 2,322

3. **Cost Development**

Cooperative Fire applies the current statewide LG-W wildland protection rate. For FY 2026–27, the rate is **\$53.31 per acre**, which includes the base protection rate plus administrative overhead. We are looking at an original **2,469.5** acres but reduced it to **2,122.67** acres at **\$53.31** per acre totaling **\$113,159.54** instead of the previous estimate of **\$131,649.05**. This is a savings of **\$18,489.28** and is it possible to negotiate a cost share with the city and the Fire District with a cost share not to exceed 25% of the annual contract. For the current contract the share would be **\$28,289.89**.

4. **Agreement Development**

CAL FIRE prepares the agreement package using the standard statewide template, including:

- Scope of work
- Budget
- GIS map
- Operating plan

The Unit Chief and designated local agency representatives are incorporated into the documents.

5. **Review and Approval**

The completed package routes through Region and Cooperative Fire Protection Program for review.

Final execution occurs once both the local agency and CAL FIRE sign the agreement.

Our next step would be submitting a **formal letter expressing interest**.

6. **Benefits to the City of Clearlake, Lake County Fire Protection, and the community we serve.**

- Increased resource response of Air & Ground resources on initial dispatch (Low-Medium-High) levels.
- CALFIRE provides a DINS crew for the Initial & ongoing Damage Estimates (IDE which tie directly to the ICS-209 situational summary)
- Damage to infrastructure for fire suppression covered by CALFIRE in their suppression repair operations.
- CALFIRE will initiate and submit the entire FMAG and CDAA processes.
- CALFIRE assumes all financial responsibilities for resource ordering for the initial attack through mop-up operations, which can take days to weeks to complete.
- Further strengthens the collaboration and coordination between the City of Clearlake and the LCFPD to better protect our community members life, property and environment.

7. **Post Meeting with City and Next Step**

CALFIRE Chief West, B.C. Hill, Chairperson Watson and me met with City Manager Alan Flora regarding a benefit and cost share with the city based on the above benefits with the city based on two previous fires (Cache & Boyles). The discussion resulted in an agreement to provide a short presentation to the city council on July 16, 2026, with City Manager Flora running the city costs for previous fires and potential support of an amount like their expenses. It was agreed that the LCFPD would move forward with the full expense and would coordinate with the city following the July 16, 2026, meeting and if approved LCFPD would enter into an agreement and invoice them for the agreed amount.

Sincerely,

Willie Sapeta, Fire Chief
Lake County Fire Protection District
Email: wsapeta@lakecountyfire.com

Phone: Office: 707-994-2170 Cell: 707-489-0966