



March __, 2026

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
1325 J Street, Suite 1800
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Governor Newsom:

On behalf of the County of Lake, the City of Lakeport, and the City of Clearlake, we respectfully urge your Administration to nominate at least six eligible Lake County census tracts as Opportunity Zones. Lake County faces some of the most severe economic distress in California, and the Opportunity Zones designation represents one of the most powerful tools available to attract private investment in our community.

Given our distress, a six-tract designation is well within the bounds of an equitable, need-based allocation. Lake County's unemployment rate of 7.7% is 40% higher than the statewide rate, our poverty rate of 19.7% is 67% higher than the statewide rate, and our median family income of \$51,434 is 49% lower than the statewide rate.

The nine eligible census tracts are as follows, presented in priority order:

Tier 1 (High Priority): Census Tracts 000402, 000501, 000702, 000703, 000801, and 000802

Tier 2 (Additional Priority): Census Tracts 000601, 000704, and 001000

The tiered groupings reflect community-based analysis of the likelihood of large-scale development occurring within these census tracts in the short to medium term, based on existing development interest and infrastructure. Our preference is for all nine tracts to be designated; tiering is provided as guidance should partial designation be necessary.

We welcome the opportunity to discuss further and provide any additional information your Administration may require.

Respectfully submitted,

Brad Rasmussen, Chair
Lake County Board of Supervisors

Brandon Disney, Mayor
City of Lakeport

Dirk Slouten, Mayor
City of Clearlake