

July 16, 2026

To: Energy Adhoc Committee

Cc: Lake County Board of Supervisors

On January 6, 2026, the Board of Supervisors (BOS) approved the formation of the Lake County Energy Policy Ad Hoc Committee. The committee's purpose is to develop County policy regarding the review and management of energy projects; provide input on state and federal energy policies that affect Lake County; address the siting of geothermal and other energy developments; explore initiatives to mitigate high energy costs; and establish partnerships to evaluate the potential environmental impacts of energy development.

Initial discussions focused on the importance of determining what is best for Lake County before developers submit projects, the potential development of a programmatic Energy Policy Environmental Impact Report (EIR), and the need to take a comprehensive approach to energy planning. This approach would include consideration of biomass, wind power, microgrids, data centers, hydrogen, and geothermal energy - among others.

The District 3 Municipal Area Councils - WRTH, CTRH and ETRH - unanimously agree on the importance and urgency of adopting an Energy Policy for Lake County.

In April 2026, the Ad Hoc Committee provided an update to the BOS, with much of the discussion focused on Community Choice Aggregation (CCA).

At the same time, Lake County is updating both its General Plan and Geothermal Element. However, given the growing number of energy-related inquiries—from hydrogen and geothermal projects to data centers—we are concerned that development of a comprehensive Energy Policy is not progressing quickly enough.

At the Board's initial meeting, Supervisor Pyska stated, "There is a lot going on, and it's really important that we pause for a minute and set the table... We need to have a team in place, develop this policy, and complete a programmatic EIR. There is a sense of urgency here."

Our three Municipal Area Councils share and support this sense of urgency. We respectfully request an update from the Ad Hoc Committee at an upcoming BOS meeting regarding the status of the Energy Policy. We would also welcome a review of approaches taken by other counties, consideration of Energy Overlay Zones, AB531 and an outline of how proposed energy projects will be evaluated and managed while the policy is being developed.

Respectfully,

Thomas Aceves, Chair. West Region Town Hall Municipal Area Council

Becky Schwenger, Chair. Central Region Town Hall Municipal Area Council

Angela Amaral, Chair. East Region Town Hall Municipal Area Council