

Shasta Lake Community Connection



Q1.2 | February 1, 2025

Wildfire Preparedness *an update from the City Manager*

As I write this, California is experiencing one of the most devastating wildfire disasters in modern U.S. history, with estimated damages and economic losses ranging from \$250 billion to \$275 billion. To put that in perspective, the state's entire budget is approximately \$320 billion. While the cause of this fire is still under investigation, its impact is undeniable.

Closer to home, the Park Fire tore through Butte and Tehama counties, spreading at an alarming rate of 5,000 acres per hour. In total, it burned more than 429,000 acres and destroyed over 700 structures. Tragically, this fire was caused by arson—an entirely preventable disaster.

In response to the wildfires in Southern California, our City Council has sent a letter to Governor Newsom, urging a reassessment of policies that hinder fuel reduction efforts and infrastructure improvements. The City emphasized the need to re-evaluate existing regulations—particularly those related to environmental protections (CEQA), permitting, land use, labor, and contracting—as well as eliminate bureaucratic obstacles that delay or prevent critical, life-saving projects. Prioritizing fuel reduction, emergency access roads, and vital infrastructure upgrades—such as water infrastructure projects—is essential. While our city of 10,200 residents has limited influence over state policies, we can take proactive steps to reduce wildfire risks in our own community.

In 2022, the City released the first volume of the Wildfire Preparedness Guide, equipping residents with valuable information on wildfire prevention and readiness. Since then, we've completed numerous fuel reduction projects, treating over 580 acres, establishing a shaded fuel break along the northern section, and removing 117 hazardous trees along Lake Blvd., with additional removals planned for Ashby Rd. and Cascade Blvd. We've also worked closely with private property owners on fire mitigation efforts near homes and open spaces. These initiatives have been made possible through more than \$3.2 million in CalFIRE grant funding, with an additional \$900,000 recently secured to continue this vital work. Additionally, our electric utility and public works department provide year-round tree maintenance to further enhance safety. While we can't control fire behavior, our goal is to mitigate, slow its spread, and ensure safe evacuations when needed.

On the topic of evacuations, if you haven't already, I strongly encourage you to sign up for Alert Shasta, the new emergency alert system provided by the Shasta County Office of Emergency Services through the Genasys app. This guide includes step-by-step instructions for registration. Emergencies can happen at any time, so staying informed is crucial. If you don't have access to a cell phone or computer, you can contact Shascom at alertshasta@shascom911.com or call (530) 245-6500 during normal business hours for assistance.

Shasta Lake is a remarkable community, rich in natural beauty and resources. If there's one key takeaway, it's this: reduce fire fuels on your own property. Fire safety is a shared responsibility together, we can make a difference.



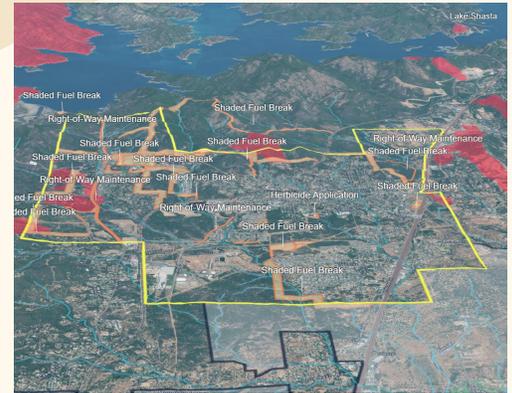
Jessaca Lugo, City Manager
(530) 275-7411



Fuel Reduction work near Yellow Pine



Fuel Reduction work near Polf Park



UPCOMING DATES:

City Council Meetings

First and Third Tuesdays of the month

6:00PM - City Council Chambers

4488 Red Bluff Street, Shasta Lake, CA 96019

Parks and Recreation Commission Meetings

Second Thursdays of the month 4:30PM

City Council Chambers

4488 Red Bluff Street, Shasta Lake, CA 96019

Planning Commission Meetings

First Thursday of the month

6:00PM - City Council Chambers

4488 Red Bluff Street, Shasta Lake, CA 96019

Shasta Lake Yoga Class

Monday and Wednesdays, 5:30-6:30PM

Shasta Lake Community Center

4499 Main Street, Shasta Lake, CA 96019

Shasta Lake Community Awards Dinner

March 8, 2025, doors open 5:00 PM

Shasta Lake Community Center

4499 Main Street, Shasta Lake, CA 96019

Save the Date - Damboree Boomtown Festival

Saturday May 10th!

