

08/04/2025

To:

Lake County Board of Supervisors
255 N Forbes Street
Lakeport, CA 95453

Subject: Middle Creek Project Status Update and Request for Board Action on the non-willing sellers

Dear Honorable Members of the Board,

On behalf of the Middle Creek Restoration Project Committee, we are writing to provide an update on the status of the Middle Creek Flood Damage Reduction and Ecosystem Restoration Project (hereafter referred to as the "Middle Creek Project") and to request the Board's consideration to initiate action regarding the acquisition of remaining properties essential to the successful implementation of the project.

The Middle Creek Project has made significant progress toward the parcel acquisitions required for the project implementation. The project remains a top priority due to its benefits to the water quality, environment, and flood protection. Despite considerable outreach and negotiations with affected property owners, we have encountered unresolved barriers to acquiring key parcels necessary for the project's completion. These parcels are critical to the overall functionality and viability of the project, and further delay may result in increased costs, missed funding opportunities, and failure to meet regulatory or contractual deadlines.

Given the circumstances, the Middle Creek Restoration Project Committee unanimously recommends that the Board initiate action to address non-willing sellers, including but not limited to the following measures:

- **Identify and allocate additional funding**, if necessary, to support full acquisition and relocation efforts;
- **Authorize continued outreach efforts** to offer final opportunities for voluntary sale prior to legal proceedings;
- **Engage County Counsel and relevant departments** to prepare the necessary documentation and resolutions for Board action;
- **Initiate the eminent domain process** for non-willing sellers, in accordance with applicable laws and procedures, to ensure timely acquisition of the remaining parcels.

We understand that this is a serious step and do not take this recommendation lightly. However, considering the project's significance and public benefit, we believe this action is both justified and necessary.

We appreciate your leadership and continued support for the Middle Creek Project.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Eddie Crandell - Chair, Middle Creek Project Committee

Bruno Sabatier - Vice-Chair, Middle Creek Project Committee

Dr. Pawan Upadhyay – Member, Middle Creek Project Committee

Dr. Harry Lyons – Member, Middle Creek Project Committee

Dr. Merry Jo Velasquez - Member, Middle Creek Project Committee