

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
LAKE COUNTY WATERSHED PROTECTION DISTRICT
COUNTY OF LAKE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Resolution No. _____

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING CONTINUOUS MONITORING OF NUTRIENTS IN
THE MIDDLE CREEK WATERSHED TO ASSESS THE IMPACTS OF
STORMWATER RUNOFF AFTER THE MENDOCINO COMPLEX FIRES

WHEREAS, Lake County is a rural county with limited funding resources; and

WHEREAS, Lake County is home to Clear lake, the largest natural lake within California borders and the oldest warm water ecosystem in North America; and

WHEREAS, Clear Lake is very species rich and provides critical habitat for wildlife and fish, including state-threatened Clear Lake Hitch (*Lavinia exilicauda chi*); and

WHEREAS, Lake County depends on Clear Lake for its economic wellbeing through fishing, birdwatching, boating, beautiful views and general recreation; and

WHEREAS, Clear Lake is the water source for 16 municipal water agencies that serve over 45,000 people; and

WHEREAS, Clear lake is subject to cyanobacteria blooms because of nutrient loading from watershed inputs; and

WHEREAS, Cyanobacteria blooms can be toxic, difficult to treat to drinking water standards, are often odorous, last through the tourist season and reduce economic vitality of the region; and

WHEREAS, Lake County is subject to a Clean Water Act restriction of nutrient loading (TMDL) into Clear Lake by the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB); and

WHEREAS, The RWQCB has declared that it will determine watershed sediment stabilization techniques and monitor the nutrient runoff from the Mendocino Complex fire of 2018 and will request funding for this purpose; and

WHEREAS, The major portion of the burn areas are on federal lands owned by Bureau of Land Management and the USDA Forest Service which do not plan to monitor nutrients from runoff into Clear Lake; and

WHEREAS, The RWQCB does not have jurisdiction on federal lands; and

WHEREAS, The Mendocino Complex fire burned 459,000 acres of which 90,078 acres in the Middle Creek watershed which flows into Clear Lake; and

WHEREAS, Runoff from Mendocino Complex fire will contribute nutrients to Clear Lake which can lead to future cyanobacteria blooms and create water supply issues for lakeside communities.; and

WHEREAS, Continuous monitoring is necessary to accurately determine the significance of nutrient loading from unpredictable stormwater events and alert both RQWCB and federal partners when maintenance of runoff management must be accomplished; and

WHEREAS, Continuous monitoring of the watershed will also determine if the goals of the RWQCB TMDL are met and quantify loading to Clear Lake; and

WHEREAS, The 1996 Forks Fire on federal lands was not monitored and several anecdotal indicators suggested an impact to Clear Lake; and

WHEREAS, Only a scientifically designed and properly funded, continuous nutrient monitoring program carried out over several years will capture the impacts of runoff from burned federal lands on Clear Lake.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Directors of the Watershed Protection District, County of Lake, State of California, that:

- 1) The RWQCB is requested to seek funding for and implementation of a multi-year continuous nutrient monitoring program that will capture high resolution data throughout the affected Clear Lake watersheds.
- 2) The RWQCB is requested determine funding needed to contain nutrient runoff into Clear Lake in cooperation with the federal agencies.

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THIS RESOLUTION was passed by the Board of Directors of Lake County Watershed Protection District, at a regular meeting thereof held on _____, 2018 by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:


ABSENT OR NOT VOTING:

Chair, Board of Directors

ATTEST: CAROL J. HUCHINGSON
Clerk of the Board

By: _____

APPROVED AS TO FORM: ANITA GRANT

By:  _____
County Counsel