

To: Lake County Board of Supervisors: Supervisor Crandell (Chair), Supervisor Rasmussen (Vice Chair), Supervisor Sabatier, Supervisor Owen, Supervisor Pyska

Re Board Agenda Item for 7/8/2025 Sonoma Clean Power Presentation

As part time residents of Fort Bragg, we currently participate in Sonoma Clean Power's (SCP) Community Choice Aggregation power plan. While the cost savings are not huge (currently 6%, which is a \$10 savings on a \$179 monthly bill), the ability to emphasize cleaner energy is a priority.

We could support expansion of this program into Lake County, but after reading the handouts/feasibility study and watching the SCP Board discussions, we do have questions/concerns. The documents outline risks that should be considered. These include:

- Inability to guarantee rates that are lower than PG&E. While we understand SCP attempts to keep rates lower, SCP recently stated they are anticipating a large increase in the Power Charge Indifference Adjustment (PCIA) in 2026." (pg. 36 of Sonoma Clean Power's Board of Directors packet in June) The Powerpoint also highlights a recent CPUC ruling which will "create more volatility in electric bills, increasing the risk of years with higher total bills." (Powerpoint pg 14). How does SCP feel these will affect near future rates?
- High customer opt-outs. What is the consequence of more than 10% opting out of the program if rates become higher than PG&E?
- Impacts from a jurisdiction withdrawing from SCP service. Lake County would need to make a 20-25 year commitment to the program, otherwise run the risk of paying \$40 million to \$100 million in penalties.

Participation in the GeoZone

From the most recent SCP Board discussion in June and statements in the Feasibility Study, it appears that SCP wishes to tie a power contract to acceptance of the GeoZone. We do have concerns and questions about the proposed GeoZone, which would allow development of enhanced geothermal systems (EGS) - using hydraulic fracturing - in Lake County.

At the SCP Board Meeting on March 6th, 2025, Mr. Syphers said that "Clearlake and the surrounding region have some potential geothermal resources that are interesting" as well as "lots of transmission lines." The new technologies could "expand the envelope of viability beyond current geologic, land, and water constraints."

We appreciate SCP's commitment to uphold Lake County's Geothermal Setback, which restricts geothermal wells and power plants around Clear Lake. But we are concerned about the current "Early Interest Area" which includes the areas surrounding Clearlake up to Hwy 20, Lower Lake, Hidden Valley, Middletown, Cobb, Kelseyville and the areas in between. These areas consist of numerous geothermal test wells that have been identified in the 2021 Glassley Report compiled for SCP. See attached jpg.

The communities surrounding the Geysers have been forced to live with induced seismicity for decades. Additional environmental issues have included emissions, waste, groundwater contamination, noise, light pollution and water use, while subsidence has been a potential issue in other areas. The technologies may have changed, but the impacts are still unknown.

If the BOS elects to continue exploration of a GeoZone, we would request further details on potential locations be made public.

Respectfully,
Chuck Lamb / Holly Harris - Clearlake Oaks

If Lake County Joins SCP

Lake County joining SCP and the GeoZone would help ensure that benefits from local geothermal energy flow to local customers first and foremost.

SCP understands Lake County's Geothermal Setback Area and long history with local geothermal power.

