

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF LAKE ESTABLISHING COUNTY MEMBERSHIP IN THE SONOMA-LAKE-MENDOCINO GEOTHERMAL OPPORTUNITY ZONE

WHEREAS, the Sonoma Clean Power Authority ("SCPA") established the structure for a Geothermal Opportunity Zone ("GeoZone") on October 7, 2021; and

WHEREAS, SCPA has invited the County of Lake ("County") to join the GeoZone to partner in exploring opportunities to accelerate the development of renewable energy and reduce greenhouse gas emissions; and

WHEREAS, SCPA is a local government entity governed by representatives from the Counties and Cities of Mendocino and Sonoma Counties and an electricity provider serving customers in its service territory; and

WHEREAS, the County and the cities within Lake County are concurrently seeking to join SCPA and allow SCPA to provide electric service to customers in the County and cities within Lake County; and

WHEREAS, a world-class geothermal resource exists in Sonoma, Lake, and Mendocino Counties with significant potential to provide clean baseload renewable energy that operates 24 hours per day 365 days per year; and

WHEREAS, the County recognizes that new, more water-efficient technologies for generating geothermal power are needed; and

WHEREAS, the County wishes to explore geothermal power projects which provide benefits to its local community and do not exist solely to benefit people outside of the County; and

WHEREAS, the County recognizes the high cost of electricity in California and supports opportunities to reduce energy cost through promoting technology development, identifying efficiencies of scale, and leveraging state and federal grant funding; and

WHEREAS, the County owns and controls property which may have development potential for baseload renewable energy projects; and

WHEREAS, the County recognizes the long permitting and development timelines for geothermal power projects; and

WHEREAS, the County is well acquainted with the potential consequences to the environment and community of new resource development and expects to be directly engaged in the selection of projects with the aim of mitigating adverse impacts; and

WHEREAS, the County shall retain its full rights to review and approve any project located within its jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, the County has an interest in sharing information and working collaboratively together with the SCPA and the Counties of Sonoma and Mendocino; and

WHEREAS, the County wishes to join the GeoZone as set forth in this Resolution.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Lake as follows:

1. The foregoing recitals are true and correct and incorporated by this reference.
2. The County of Lake joins the Sonoma-Lake-Mendocino Geothermal Opportunity Zone ("GeoZone") established by SCPA conditioned on the SCPA Board authorizing participation of the County in the SCPA Community Choice Aggregate Program. The boundary of the GeoZone in the County of Lake will initially include the full territory of the County. The GeoZone shall be used to explore the potential development of geothermal energy resources within its boundaries. These activities may include identifying potential sites for new geothermal energy production and for the research of new and emerging geothermal technology, collaboratively sharing information among the participating counties, soliciting developers to propose new geothermal and other clean power resources, exploring a programmatic environmental impact report to reduce development risks and timelines, seeking federal and state funds and changes in policy to support geothermal development, and facilitating the use of the renewable energy output by customers in the participating counties. The County joins the GeoZone with the understanding and based on the warranty that SCPA will not propose new geothermal projects within the County's current Geothermal Setback Area as set forth in Lake County Code section 27.11.1.
3. Activities shall not include any final commitment to develop geothermal energy resources at any site, which shall only be made by the participating counties, and other applicable regulatory agencies after necessary environmental and similar review. Notwithstanding the foregoing, any proposed development of geothermal energy in the jurisdiction of the County shall be subject to the County's review and approval.
4. County staff is hereby authorized to take such administrative actions necessary to implement the GeoZone.
5. For the reasons set forth above, the adoption of this Resolution is not a "project" requiring environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") pursuant to Title 14, California Code of Regulations, § 15060, subdivision (c)(3) and § 15378, subdivisions (a) and (b)(2), (b)(4) and (b)(5) ("State CEQA Guidelines"). Alternatively, the actions are statutorily exempt from CEQA review pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines § 15262 and exempt under the "common sense" exemption identified in State CEQA Guidelines § 15061, subdivision (b)(3). None of the exceptions to the use of the "common sense" exemption as identified in State CEQA Guidelines § 15300.2 exist.

6. This Resolution shall be effective upon its adoption.

The foregoing Resolution was adopted at a regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Lake held on _____, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ATTEST:
