



**COUNTY OF LAKE
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

Courthouse - 255 North Forbes Street
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Moke Simon – District 1

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September 12, 2017

Sheri K. Miller, P.E.
Mendocino District Engineer
Division of Drinking Water
STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
50 "D" Street, Suite 200
Santa Rosa, CA 95404

**Subject: Hidden Valley Lake Community Services District Water System ID #1710015
Compliance Order No. 02_03_14R_004**

Dear Ms. Miller,

As you are well aware, on September 12, 2015, the Valley Fire raged through the Southern Lake County communities of Cobb, Anderson Springs, Middletown and Hidden Valley, destroying 1,281 residential homes and leaving thousands homeless and devastated.

The Valley Fire was the third most destructive fire in the history of the state of California, and started within just weeks of extinguishment of the Rocky and Jerusalem fires, which had claimed nearly 50 residences and many other structures.

With survivors and local officials still struggling to recover from the Valley Fire, our community was struck again by the scourge of wildfire in August 2016; the Clayton fire destroyed another 300 structures.

You were an important partner as we faced disaster. As such, you appreciate that the confluence of these events has taken a dramatic toll. Our property tax base was severely impacted by the fires, compounding our County's significant long-term economic hardship. The loss of property tax revenue has informed critical County staffing shortages, further exacerbating a severe housing crisis in and around the area served by Hidden Valley Lake Community Services District Water System.

In short, we have a deep need to maximize every opportunity to encourage construction of homes in all of Lake County, and especially in the area near Hidden Valley Lake.

This particular Compliance Order, as you know, was prompted by extreme drought conditions, and required that the Hidden Valley Lake Community Services District take measures to cease new service connections and ensure the long-term availability of a reliable water supply. We support Hidden Valley Lake Community Services District's (HVLCSO) letter of July 2017, which details significant steps undertaken by HVLCSO to respond to your Board's order. As likewise noted by HVLCSO, drought conditions have also improved.



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Now, we ask your help in improving the condition of many in the Hidden Valley Lake area, by providing water necessary to build new homes, a critical step in wildfire recovery.

We further ask your help and consideration as we strive to improve the economic condition of our County, and respond to our combination of crises, which can only be described as unprecedented.

Please lift the Hidden Valley Lake Meter Moratorium, and, in so doing, help to lift a community in profound need.

Sincerely,

Moke Simon, District 1

Jeff Smith, District 2

Jim Steele, District 3

Tina Scott, District 4

Rob Brown, District 5