

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF LAKE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

**RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_**

**A RESOLUTION 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 to join the GeoZone to partner in exploring opportunities to accelerate the development of renewable energy and reduce greenhouse gas emissions; 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**, Lake County recognizes that new more water-efficient technologies for generating geothermal power are needed; and

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

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

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

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

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

**WHEREAS**, the County of Lake wishes to join the geothermal opportunity zone, as set forth in this Resolution.

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

1. The above 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. 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 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 Counties.
3. Activities shall not include any final commitment to develop geothermal energy resources at any site, which shall only be made by the Counties, and other applicable regulatory agencies after necessary environmental and similar review.
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 pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines § 15060, subdivision (c)(3) and §15378, subdivisions (a) and (b)(2), (b)(4) and (b)(5). 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,

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subdivision (b)(3). None of the exceptions to the use of the “common sense” exemption as identified in Government Code § 15300.2 exist.

6. This Resolution shall be effective immediately.

**THIS RESOLUTION** was duly passed and regularly adopted by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Lake at a regular meeting thereof on the 25<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2022, motion by \_\_\_\_\_, and seconded by \_\_\_\_\_, motion passed by the following vote:

**AYES:**

**NOES:**

**ABSENT OR NOT VOTING:**

**ATTEST: CAROL J. HUCHINGSON**

**COUNTY OF LAKE**

Clerk to the Board of Supervisors

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Deputy

\_\_\_\_\_

Chair, Board of Supervisors

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

**ANITA L. GRANT**

County Counsel

  
anita grant (Jan 19, 2022 11:48 PST)

# for 1/25 agenda - sorry this is coming to you so late

Final Audit Report

2022-01-19

Created:	2022-01-19
By:	Carol Huchingson (carol.huchingson@lakecountyca.gov)
Status:	Signed
Transaction ID:	CBJCHBCAABAAtXk-Nq_GcNycjRHVRyuM4QI7ScIbR7N9


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2022-01-19 - 7:46:39 PM GMT- IP address: 208.91.28.66

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