



**COUNTY OF LAKE
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**
Courthouse - 255 North Forbes Street
Lakeport, California 95453
TELEPHONE (707) 263-2368
FAX (707) 263-2207

Moke Simon – District 1

Jeff Smith – District 2

Jim Steele – District 3

Tina Scott – District 4

Rob Brown – District 5

November 7, 2017

Congressman Garamendi
412 G Street
Davis, CA 95616

Congressman Thompson
2721 Napa Valley Corporation Drive
Napa, CA 94558

Congressman Huffman
559 Low Gap Road
Ukiah, CA 95482

Dear Sirs:

The Lake County Board of Supervisors would like you to be aware of Lake County's position regarding the value of Scott Dam to Lake County citizens and downstream resources. This dam may be considered for removal according to informal reports from members of Congressman Huffman's hearings and Hearing agenda items looking into flow and power supply from the present Eel River Power Project owned by PG&E.

Lake Pillsbury located in the Mendocino National Forest in Lake County was formed by Scott Dam in 1921 as part of the Potter Valley Project to supply water for electric power generators to the City of Ukiah. The dam is a concrete gravity structure, 138 feet high, 805 feet long at its crest, and impounds a maximum capacity of 86,400 acre-feet. Downstream is the Cape Horn Dam forming Lake Van Arsdale. A portion of water from these Eel River structures is diverted through a tunnel to a power generator and to the Russian River.

During the almost 100 years since the development of dams along both the Eel and the Russian Rivers anadromous fishery resources have declined to a small percentage of former times, agriculture has grown to form a significant percentage of the economy and population increases have increased demand for water. Lake Pillsbury supports destination recreation in an otherwise

disadvantaged economic setting, a herd of rare Tule Elk, local year round residents and a source of fire suppression water.

The conversation surrounding removal of power producing Eel River dams stems from new alternate solar power supplies and the thought that dam removal will restore the passage of anadromous fish to spawning grounds. Anadromous fish resources have declined throughout California from a variety of reasons but stream blockage behind dams is a primary cause. The Eel and Russian system has changed over the decades with increased agriculture, community growth and a warming climate resulting in less water available. The advantage of Lake Pillsbury in today's environment is its Eel River headwaters location that would continue to support fisheries if downstream impediments are removed.

Headwater lakes recharge groundwater systems and the lake-outflow both support summer instream flows, and dampens flashy winter storms. Lake Pillsbury is located such that fish could still spawn in nearby channel forks and main stem areas and receive the benefit of an important water supply. The additional advantage of a headwater lake is for supporting downstream agriculture and is a natural summer river recreational experience.

The Lake County Board of Supervisors are concerned that this valuable message might be lost in a hasty review of flow data, power sources and a reliance on other available dam storage assets that make up the system. We look to our congressional representatives to protect the natural environmental interests that we all share.

Sincerely,

LAKE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Jeff Smith, Chair
District 2

Moke Simon
District 1

Jim Steele
District 3

Tina Scott
District 4

Rob Brown
District 5