

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

2 **RESOLUTION NO. _____**

3 **A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE POSITION OF THE COUNTY OF LAKE REGARDING THE**
4 **FUTURE OF LAKE PILLSBURY AND THE POTTER VALLEY PROJECT ON THE EEL RIVER**

5 **WHEREAS**, the Potter Valley Project, currently owned by Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E), was
6 constructed on the main stem of the Eel River in Mendocino County between 1905 and 1922 to
7 generate hydroelectric power, and through its operation, serves as an inter-basin transfer of water from
8 the Eel River basin to the Russian River Basin; and

9 **WHEREAS**, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Hydropower License for the Potter
10 Valley Project (FERC P-77) expires April 14, 2022; and

11 **WHEREAS**, May 10, 2018, PG&E announced their intent to put this project up for auction; and

12 **WHEREAS**, the County of Lake's watershed is among the originating waters for the Eel River
13 and, through the Potter Valley Project's inter-basin transfers of water, the Russian River; and

14 **WHEREAS**, the County of Lake is a member of the Eel Russian River Commission (ERRC), a
15 body that considers the beneficial uses of the Eel and Russian River systems, and may make
16 recommendations to agencies and entities; and

17 **WHEREAS**, management of the water flowing from Lake County is a significant county concern
18 that serves both in-county and downstream users and their values; and

19 **WHEREAS**, construction of Scott Dam was completed in 1922, forming Lake Pillsbury, and
20 Lake Pillsbury has since supported the hydroelectricity-generating Potter Valley Project by holding water
21 for summer release and power generation; and

22 **WHEREAS**, Lake Pillsbury provides Endangered Species Act (ESA) protected fish population
23 support for both the Eel and Russian River through water storage and releases; and

24 **WHEREAS**, Lake Pillsbury water supports resident populations of ESA-protected salmonids,
25 and other species, through ground water recharge, which reenters the downstream channels; and

26 **WHEREAS**, groundwater recharge also supports local wells; and

27 **WHEREAS**, Lake Pillsbury supports a significant population of Tule Elk in upstream grazing
28 areas; and

29 **WHEREAS**, Lake Pillsbury supports the recreational community and visitor economy in Lake
30 County; and

WHEREAS, Lake Pillsbury is a source of local water for firefighting and forest protection; and

WHEREAS, the hydrologic conditions for anadromous fish populations have been altered by dryer winters, lessening coastal mountain water storage through snow pack and meadow sources; and

WHEREAS, stored water managed in a headwaters location offsets some of the water needs of the Eel River ecosystem, particularly restoring salmonids; and

WHEREAS, the County of Lake recognizes the value of the Eel River to Native American populations including the importance of anadromous fish population runs and their cultural value; and

WHEREAS, the County of Lake recognizes the value of downstream agricultural interests; and

WHEREAS, the County of Lake, as a subdivision of the State of California, has a duty to make decisions in the best interest of all natural and human resources.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE LAKE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS ADOPTS THE FOLLOWING POSITION STATEMENT REGARDING THE FUTURE OF LAKE PILLSBURY AND THE POTTER VALLEY PROJECT ON THE EEL RIVER:

1. Lake Pillsbury provides a recreation-based economy to North Lake County and supports the maintenance of Scott Dam and Lake Pillsbury.
2. Storage of water in Lake Pillsbury allows for the release of critical flows necessary to sustain downstream salmonid and threatened fish species.
3. The County of Lake supports studies that provide a better understanding of dam releases, seasonal flows and the hydrologic cycle as they pertain to protection of native species and the recreation-based economy.
4. The County of Lake will continue to seek opportunities to participate in any proposed regulatory changes to the Potter Valley Project, and advocate for the best plan to protect the interests of citizens and natural resources.

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THIS RESOLUTION was passed and adopted by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Lake
at a regular meeting thereof on the _____ day of _____, 2018 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
