Print Form

### Notice of Exemption

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### Appendix E

To: Office of Planning and Research P.O. Box 3044, Room 113 Sacramento, CA 95812-3044 County Clerk County of: Siskiyou <u>311 Fourth Street, Room 201</u> Yreka CA 96097	From: (Public Agency): Environmental Hea 806 South Main Street Yreka CA 96097 (Address)	FILED Siskiyou County
Project Title: Water Well Permit #23076		-NOV-07-2024
Project Applicant: Lava Lakes Ranch		URA BYNUM, CLERK
Project Location - Specific: 6615 Sterchi Lane, Montague, CA 96062 (APN: 039	ENDUBYSE	Deputy Clerk
0	Siekiugu	
Project Location - City: Gazelle	Project Location - County: Siskiyou	
Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries Approval of an agricultural production well replac		
Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Siskiy Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Exempt Status: (check one): Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268); Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15 Categorical Exemption. State type and se Statutory Exemptions. State code number Reasons why project is exempt:	Environmental Health Division	
See attachment.		
Lead Agency Contact Person: Rick Dean	Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 530	-841-2100
	ding. he public agency approving the project?  Ve hate: 11//5/2024 Title: Director	\$ □ No
Signed by Lead Agency  Signed b	y Applicant	
Authority cited: Sections 21088 and 21110, Public Resource Reference: Sections 21108, 2 152, and 21152.1, Public Res		

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Revised 2011

### Reason why project is exempt:

Larry Walker and Associates preformed a hydrogeological analysis utilizing their hydrologic modeling tool from which Natural Resources and Community Development has concluded the separation distance and well pumping drawdown indicates that the replacement well will not have a significant adverse impact on public trust resources. County staff has determined that the well does not pose any threat to human health, safety, or the environment. Per the Siskiyou County Flood Control District, this well is consistent with historic activity occurring on the parcel and is also consistent with the Groundwater Sustainability Plan for Shasta Valley. See memorandum's for additional details.

### October 29, 2024

### MEMORANDUM

MEMO TO:	RICK DEAN, DIRECTOR, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT; DAN WESSELL, DEPUTY DIRECTOR ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT, SISKIYOU COUNTY
FROM:	MATT PARKER, NATURAL RESOURCES SPECIALIST, NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
RE:	PUBLIC TRUST CONSIDERATION: LAVA LAKES REPLACEMENT PRODUCTION WELL PERMIT APPLICATION, APN: 039-320-270

Whereas the counties, as subdivisions of the State of California have a fiduciary duty to consider the public trust before authorizing the drilling of groundwater well whose extractions might have an adverse impact on public trust resources.

The Siskiyou County Natural Resources Department (Department) has reviewed the above entitled well permit application for the replacement of a production well to serve the purpose of irrigating 75 acres of farmland in the Shasta Valley. The Department has reviewed 1) the information in the application, and 2) the technical memorandum (Attachment #1) prepared by Larry Walker Associates to aid in its evaluation of Public Trust Doctrine consideration.

### The Department finds:

- The well location is approximately 2.85 miles from the nearest navigable waterway (Shasta River).
- The professional technical memorandum prepared by Larry Walker Associates, which models impacts from the proposed well replacement, along with the other materials reviewed, do not indicate that extraction of water from the proposed well would substantially impair or interfere with public trust uses or values within interconnected downstream navigable waters, including the Shasta River.
- More specifically, under the conditions specified below, the limited pumping from this existing Agricultural Use (75 acres) in the Shasta Valley watershed in the same historic farmed acreage/volumes will not substantially impair or interfere

with public trust uses or values within interconnected downstream navigable waters, including the Shasta River.

- To the extent the continued historical use of groundwater from this site may ultimately contribute to cumulative reductions in surface waters in downstream navigable waters, the production of groundwater for irrigation use on this parcel in the Shasta Valley is within the public interest because this parcel holds groundwater rights intended to be put to beneficial use consistent with Article X, section 2 of the California Constitution.
- The issuance of this permit for a replacement well purpose qualifies as a Class 2 categorical exemption under Section 15302 of the CEQA Guidelines which allows for replacement or reconstruction of existing structures and facilities where the new structure will be located on the same site as the structure replaced and will have substantially the same purpose and capacity as the structure replaced. The new replacement well does not propose to serve additional connections/acreage and will have substantially the same purpose and capacity as the well being replaced. In addition, the project has been found to be consistent with Siskiyou County Codes and Policies.
- Alternately, the issuance of this permit for a well to replace the existing well is exempt from CEQA because the activity is covered by the common sense exemption (Cal. Code Regs. Title. 14 Sec. 15061(b)(3)). CEQA applies only to projects which have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment. Where it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment, the activity is not subject to CEQA. The County has determined that the issuance of this permit qualifies under the common sense exemption because it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment as each of this permit qualifies under the common sense exemption because it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment based on the proposed continued use of groundwater is consistent with historic activity occurring on the parcels.

Recommended replacement (well permit conditions):

- The new well will be located on the same parcel, no closer to the Shasta River than the well being replaced.
- Water production is not to exceed irrigation of the 75 acres of farmland historically farmed as served by the former well on APN #039-320-270

Attachment:

• Attachment #1 - LWA Technical Memorandum

ATTACHMENT #1

### Memorandum

To: Laura Foglia From: Gerald O'Neill cc: Matt Parker Date: October 29, 2024

Re: Preliminary evaluation of proposed well LL1, APN 039-320-270

This memorandum describes a preliminary modeling analysis of the effects of pumping the proposed well LL1 in Shasta Valley (Figure 1) on groundwater levels at nearby wells and streams.

The Shasta Watershed Groundwater Model (SWGM), documented in the GSP<sup>1</sup>, was used to simulate pumping from the proposed wells. SWGM represents the best currently available scientific tool for this purpose. The model is presently being updated through the GSP process, and the most recent version available at the date of this memo (referred to herein as the current model) was used for the analysis presented in this memorandum.

SWGM was applied to compute impacts of the proposed pumping on nearby wells and the Shasta River, which may include changes in groundwater levels and changes in streamflow. Location, depth, pumping rate, and period of pumping, along with use information, were provided by the applicant and are listed in Table 1.

Model grid cell locations were determined from the well location provided in Google Earth, and model layer for the pumping from LL1 was determined from the land surface elevation at the proposed well site and the expected completion depth of the well.

Changes from the current model were computed by pumping LL1 at 325 gpm, for approximately 7 months from April through October, with a total annual volume of groundwater pumped of about 300 acre-feet.

In order to represent system conditions during a recent irrigation season, pumping for LL1 was added to the current SWGM for the seven months from April through October, 2022. Further, a second cycle of pumping was

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Siskiyou County Flood Control and Water District Groundwater Sustainability Agency, Shasta Valley Groundwater Sustainability Plan, January 2022, <u>https://www.co.siskiyou.ca.us/naturalresources/page/shasta-valley</u>

simulated from April through September, 2023, to demonstrate effects of a pumping and recovery cycle, followed by an additional pumping cycle.

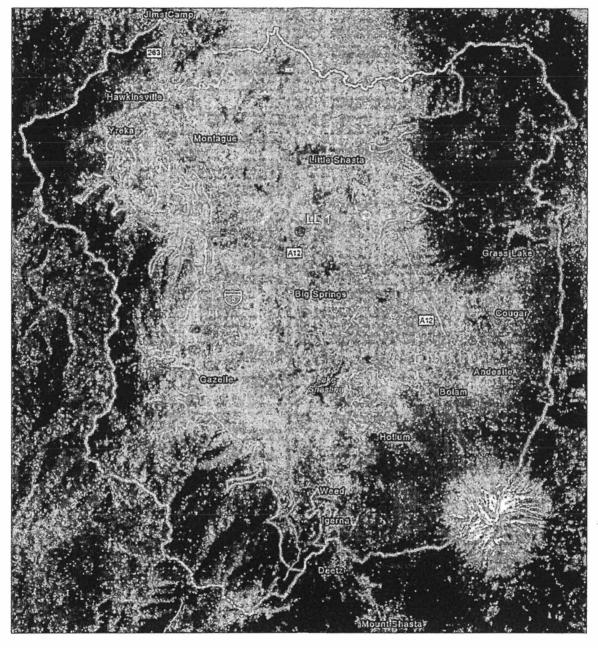


Figure 1. Map showing Shasta Valley watershed and groundwater basin, and proposed location of well LL1.

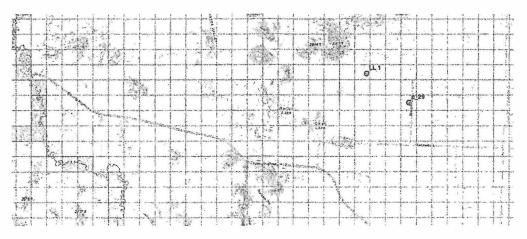
Well	Estimated Pumping Rate (gpm)	Estimated Depth (ft)	Expected Pumping Period	Estimated Irrigated Area (acres)	Estimated Annual Volume Pumped (acre-ft)	Сгор Туре	Irrigation Method
LL1	325	1,000	7 Months	75	300	Pasture	Flood

Note that Table 1 indicates that well LL1 has an estimated depth of 1,000 ft, which is for drilling the test boring, but the expected well completion depth is  $750 \text{ ft}^2$ .

<sup>2</sup> Rick Dean, personal communication October 23, 2024.

### **Evaluation of Proposed Well LL1**

Figure 2 shows locations of the proposed pumping well LL1, and nearby well c\_29, which is a DWR regional monitoring well used in SWGM calibration. It is the only CASGEM<sup>3</sup> well located within 1-mile of LL1 (at 0.56 miles). The screen interval of LL1 is located within SWGM model layer 4, corresponding with the expected depth of LL1 at 750 ft; the screen interval of c\_29 corresponds with model layer 3. The model grid is shown for reference; the closest reach of the Shasta River, the nearest surface water body simulated in SWGM, is located 2.85 miles to the southwest of LL1. Model grid cells are uniform 270 m squares (~886 ft).



# Figure 2. Map showing location of proposed well LL1, and DWR regional monitoring well c\_29. Stream cells along the Shasta River, and the model grid, are also shown.

Figure 3 shows a cross-section along model row 78, where LL1 is located in layer 4 as shown by the symbol: blue circle with an X inside. Layers are numbered from top to bottom, where the top of layer 1 represents the land surface, and the bottom of layer 4 represents the base of the aquifer system. Green shaded cells in layer 1 represent the Shasta River, about 3.7 miles to the west along row 78, and red shaded cells represent virtual agricultural pumping wells<sup>4</sup> in model layer 3. Cyan shaded cells in layer 1 represent farmers ditches.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> California Statewide Groundwater Elevation Monitoring (CASGEM), <u>California Statewide</u> <u>Groundwater Elevation Monitoring (CASGEM)</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Actual agricultural irrigation well locations were not determined in the current model configuration; thus, virtual wells were used to distribute the irrigation pumping estimated by Davids Engineering and Larry Walker Associates.

The model layers approximately correspond with different geologic units at depth. Thickness of model layer 1 in the vicinity of the proposed wells varies from about approximately 5-15 m, or about 15-50 ft; thickness of layer 2 is approximately 50 m, or about 164 ft, thickness of layer 3 is 100 m, or about 328 ft, and thickness of layer 4 is 300-350 m or about 1,000-1,150 ft.

Cross-Section Along Row 78

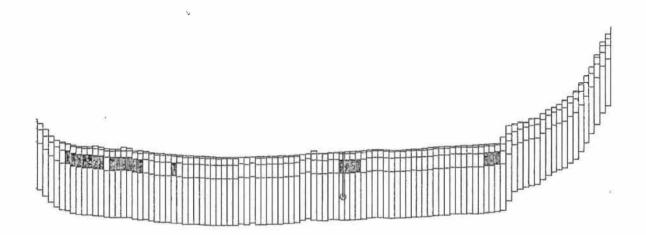


Figure 3. Cross-section of model grid in vicinity of well LL1. Model rows are oriented along east-west cardinal directions on a compass: east is to the right and west is to the left.

Figure 4 shows the SWGM computed drawdown <sup>5</sup> at well c\_29, located approximately 2,873 ft from LL1. Drawdown is plotted for model layer 3 where c\_29 is screened. Time is shown in days since the start of the simulation, with pumping beginning at April 1, 2022 or 11,506 days from October 1, 1990, and cessation of pumping at October 31, 2022 or 11,719 days from model start time, for a pumping period of 213 days or 7 months. Drawdown is plotted at the end of each monthly "stress period" in the model over which pumping and recharge and stream flows are constant. After pumping stopped, groundwater levels recovered over 61 percent before a second cycle of pumping for 6 months, from April 1, 2023 through September 30, 2023, began. Note that computed drawdown increases in the second cycle because groundwater levels had not fully recovered before pumping resumed in the following irrigation season.

Maximum computed drawdown at c\_29, for the conditions described above, is approximately 0.08 m or about 0.26 ft.

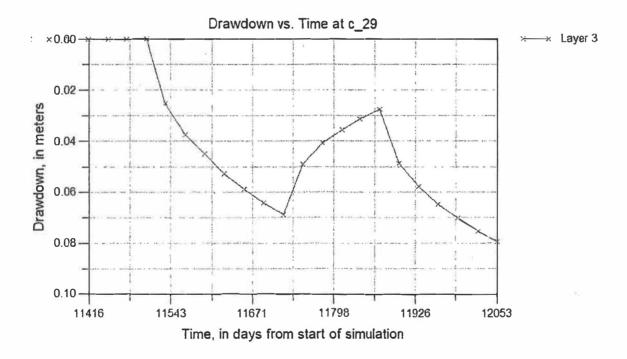


Figure 4. SWGM computed drawdown at well c\_29, due to pumping from Well LL1.

<sup>5</sup> Note that "drawdown" shown on the figures presented in this memorandum refers to the groundwater level difference between the current model and the simulation results.

Figure 5 shows contours of drawdown in Layer 1, the uppermost model layer, along with stream cells (shaded green) representing the Shasta River and its tributaries. Model computed drawdown at the Shasta River, to the west and south of LL1, from pumping Well LL1 in this simulation, is approximately 1 cm (0.01 m).

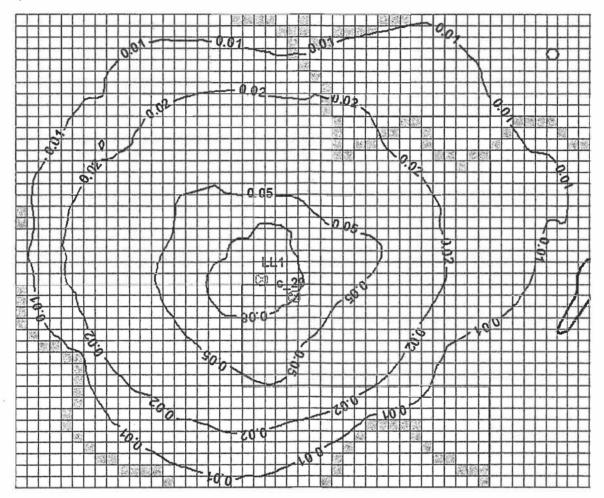


Figure 5. Drawdown contours in layer 1, in meters, resulting from pumping Well LL1 for 7 months. Contour interval varies.

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### Limitations

SWGM is presently being recalibrated with both new and updated hydrogeologic data, and with improved estimates of streamflow and diversions. Currently, some areas of the model are better calibrated than others. Thus, computed groundwater levels and flows, and stream flows, may change as improvements are included in the model. However, the proposed well evaluations are based on changes in heads from the current model, which should help minimize issues with the current status of calibration. An additional limitation of this analysis is that, currently, pumping from individual wells is evaluated separately; however, the effects of permitting multiple new wells are additive. Further, pumping cycles were simulated only in the most recent two years of the current model, i.e., from 2022-2023. Future hydrology (wet or dry years), if different than the period simulated, could result in more or less computed drawdown due to differences in accompanying aquifer recharge rates. A future simulation with projected hydrology could address this limitation on estimating long-term impacts from the proposed pumping.

### Conclusions

The SWGM was used to compute groundwater level impacts, from pumping proposed well LL1, on nearby monitoring wells, and at the closest reach of the Shasta River. Results based on the current model suggest that pumping at the proposed location, depth, pumping rate and duration, would have minimal impact on nearby wells and groundwater levels adjacent to streams.

### References

Siskiyou County Flood Control and Water District Groundwater Sustainability Agency, Shasta Valley Groundwater Sustainability Plan, January 2022, https://www.co.siskiyou.ca.us/naturalresources/page/sustainablegroundwater-management-act-sgma

#### October 29, 2024

#### MEMORANDUM

## MEMO TO: RICK DEAN, DIRECTOR, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR; DAN WESSELL, DEPUTY DIRECTOR ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH, SISKIYOU COUNTY FROM: MATT PARKER, SHASTA VALLEY GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY, PLAN MANAGER RE: GSA COMPATABILITY REVIEW: LAVA LAKES REPLACEMENT PRODUCTION WELL PERMIT APPLICATION ON APN: 039-320-270

The Shasta Valley Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA), has reviewed the above entitled replacement well permit application and accompanying LWA technical memorandum for a new replacement production well in the Shasta Valley. The GSA has considered the information in the application, along with the Siskiyou County Flood Control and Water Conservation District's Groundwater Sustainability Plan for the Shasta Valley.

> The Department finds:

- > The application is for replacing a failed production well.
- The applicant is not expanding the applicant's irrigation footprint. (75 acres) outside the property's historic irrigation practices pre-2015.
- The replacement well will not cause an increase in net consumptive groundwater use in the Shasta Valley groundwater basin in accordance with the "Avoiding Significant Increase of Total Net Groundwater Use from the Basin" in the Shasta Valley Groundwater Sustainability Plan (Shasta GSP), Chapter 4.

- The applicant should be made aware of and encouraged to voluntarily implement practices as described in the Shasta GSP Chapter 4, to improve irrigation efficiency [for example, the applicant is welcome to work with Siskiyou County Natural Resources Staff, UC Cooperative Extension, Siskiyou RCD, NRCS or other entities with resources to assist in acquiring funding for irrigation efficiency improvements].
- > Attachment:
  - o GSA Verification form
  - Attachment #1 LWA Technical Memorandum.

### **Groundwater Sustainability Agency Verification Form**

Siskiyou County Flood Control and Water Conservation District

Owner Inj	formation	Well Infor	mation
Name:	Lava Lakes Ranch	A.P.N:	039-320-270
Address:	6615 Sterchi Lane	Latitude:	41.65252
City:	Montague	Longitude:	-122.41946
Zip:	96064	Township	44N
Phone:	530-646-7021	Range	5W
Email:		Section	21

Groundwater Sustainability Agency:

he proposed well is not inconsistent with the Groundwater Sustainability Agency's adopted, or in progress, Groundwater Sustainability Plan; and,

he proposed well does not interfere with the Groundwater Sustainability Agency's SGMA authorities, including the Agency's addressing of undesirable results and the likelihood of achieving the sustainability goal.

I hereby certify that the GSA has reviewed the above conditions for the subject property for compliance with Executive Order N-7-22 and have marked each box for compliance as applicable.

Groundwater Sustainability Agency Signature

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10/22 Date Natural Re Resources (GSA Plan Manage ATTACHMENT #1

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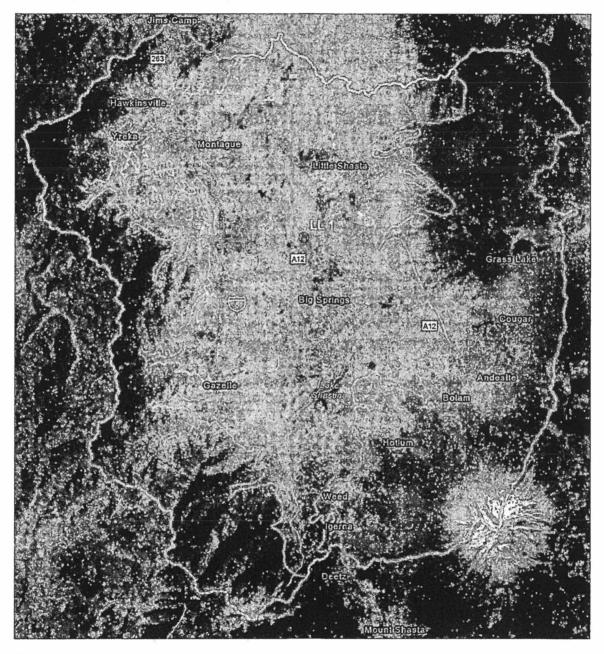


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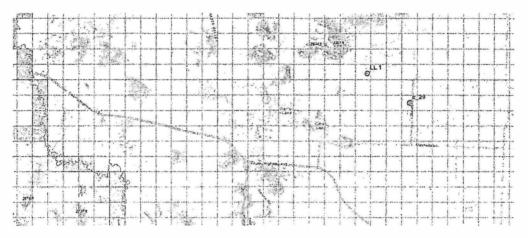
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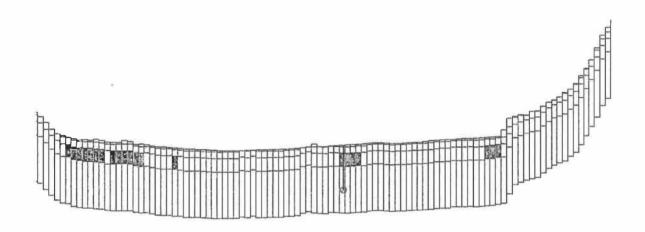
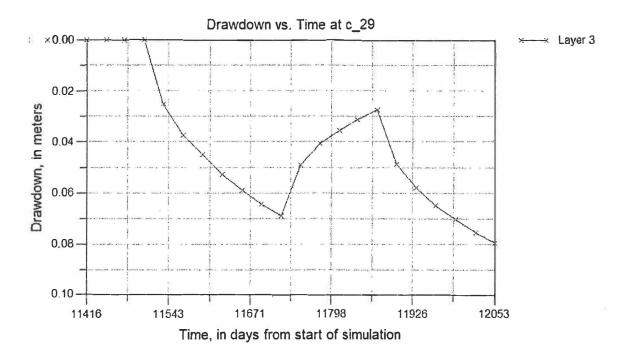


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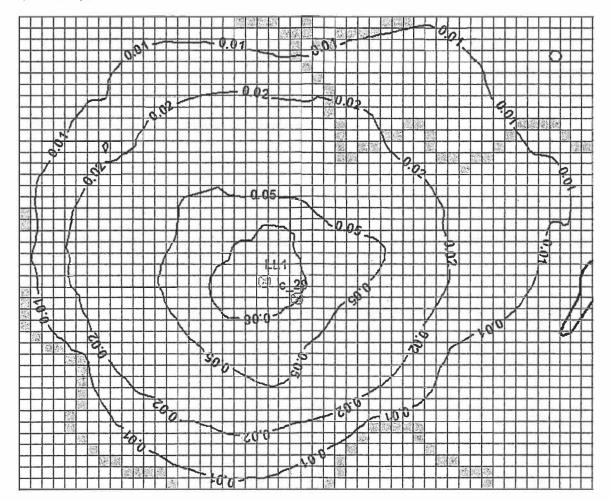


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### ۲۹۵ ، ۲۵۶ Siskiyou County Community Development-Environmental Health Division 806 South Main Street, Yreka CA 95097 Telephone: (530) 841-2100 FAX: (530) 841-4076 T44MR SWS 21

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Well Type

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Signature

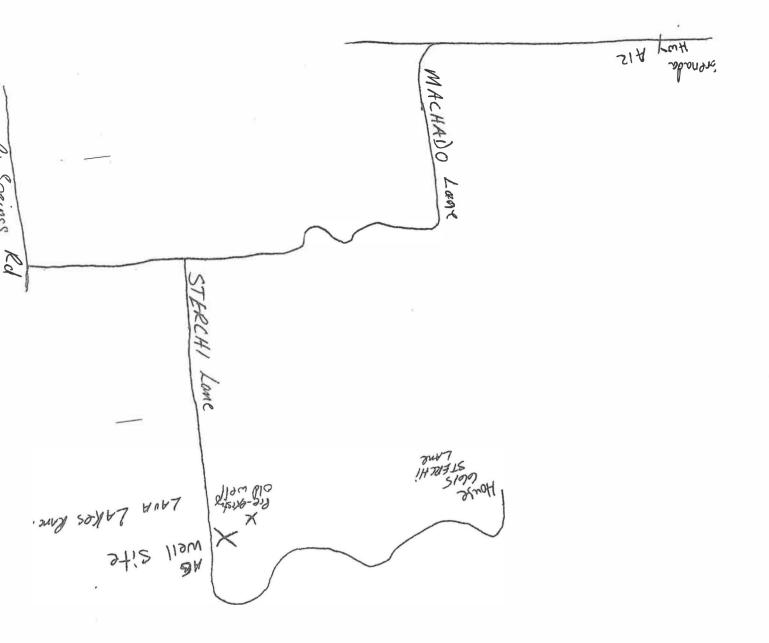
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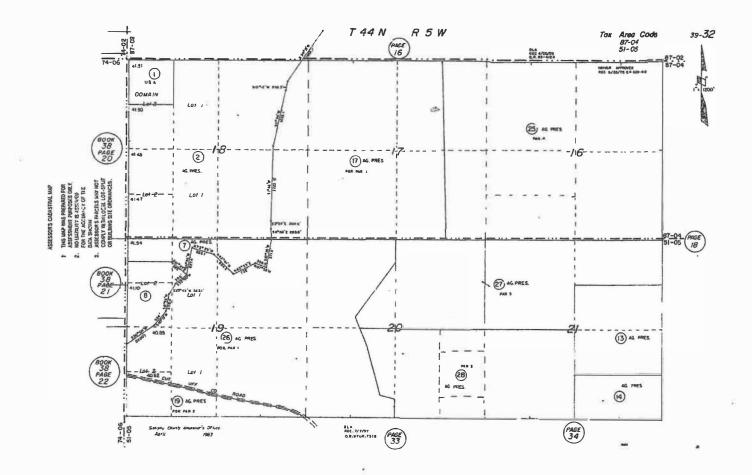
Contractor

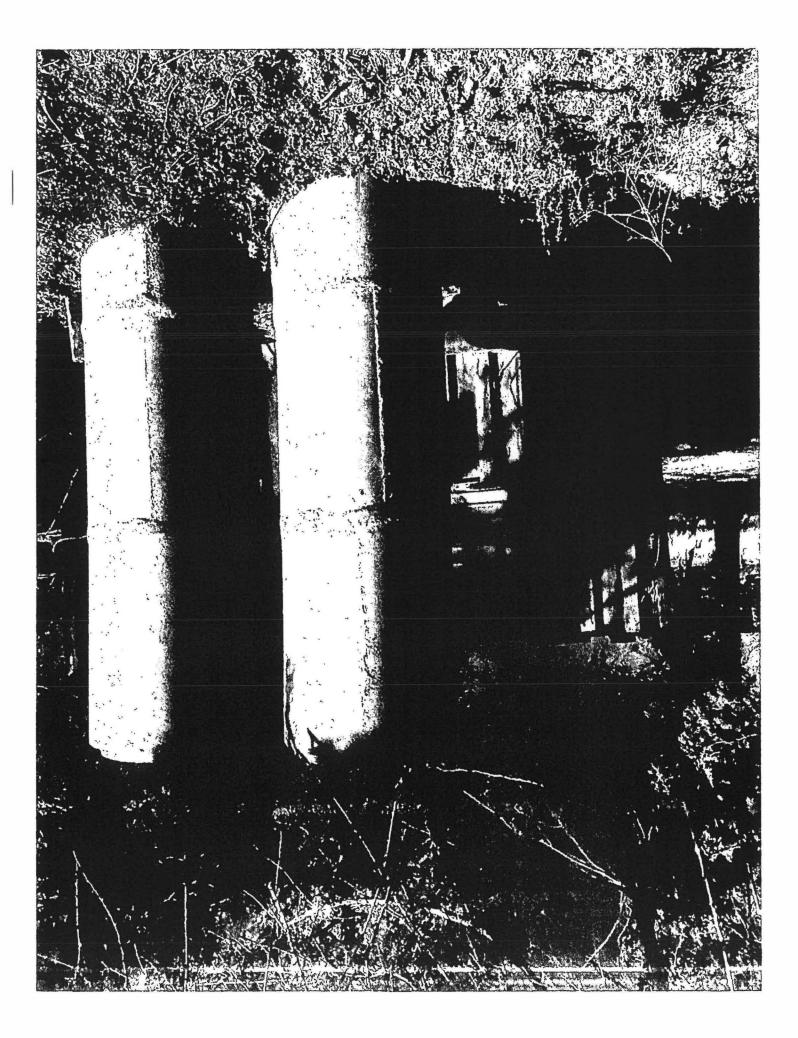
WATER WELL PERMIT PERMIT# W 23076 APPLICANT (Must be licensed contractor or property owner and must be **Property Location** Property Owner LAVA LAKE STANCH Name LAVA LAKES RANCH Assessors parcel # 039-320-270 Address 6615 STERCHI LANE Location 6615 STERCHI LANE Mailing Address P.O. BOX 7 433 Parcel Size City, State, Zip Code MONTAGUE, CA 96064 WELL CONTRACTOR Telephone 530-646-7021 Name NORTH STATE DRILLING Chris Del-dotto Mailing Address 3282 CA-32 **Annular Seal Depth** City, State, Zip Code CHICO, CA 95973 Industrial..... 50 foot minimum Telephone 530-891-5545 License # 812678 Monitoring..... as approved # Deepening.....n/a FEES Destruction.....n/a Well permit.....\$360 Soil bores..... as approved Well deepening.....\$185 Well destruction.....\$185 Monitoring Well(s) and Soil bores (First Three) ....\$360 A PLOT PLAN MUST be submitted on an 8.5" x 11" sheet of and \$75 for each additional well paper. It must include all property boundaries, waterways, roads, septic systems and structures, location of the proposed well in For Official Use Only relationship to the property boundaries. Dinitials Property Owner Verification 10. Permit Conditions JW Well driller must provide a minimum of 24 hours Set back Requirements 10-2 notice prior to installing or placing annular seal. Flood All wells must be drilled under a C-57 license Applicant/well driller is responsible for maintaining City Public Works all setbacks as approved by on location map below 7.4 including a minimum of 100 feet from any 20-Date 10-Received by established on-site sewage disposal location. 241 Fee Received 3300 Owner and well contractor are required to submit a completed well log within 30 days of well Permission is hereby granted for the above well work in accordance completion. with all State and County laws and standards as provided in Siskiyou County Code, Title 5, Chapter 8 and any conditions as set forth in this This permit does not guarantee issuance of any permit other development permits or land use requests for this property. ٥/ Issued by Date This permit expires one year from the date of Seal Inspection issuance Seal Depth **Owner/Contractor Signatures** Final Inspection by Date SIGNATURE OF OWNER: (required on all applications) Inspection Notes: <u>A6</u> Condition 22600. Date Well Log Received well Lak LANDE I am the owner of the property and certify that the Log information contained herein is accurate. I understand that this application will become a permit upon review and LOCATION MAP approval by the Environmental Division. I understand that (to be completed by department) A well construction may not begin prior to receiving a permit 200 and all terms and conditions apply. I hereby authorize SISKIYOU COUNTY to enter the property for inspection I hereby authorize the contractor listed herein to obtain the &75' 19 12022 Date Signature of Contractor (required on all applications) I certify that I possess a valid C-57 contractor's license that is in full force and effect. I certify that I have read this application and the above information is correct. I agree to comply with all Siskiyou County Ordinances and State Laws relating this well of well will irright construction. I understand that this application will become a 15 Acres per historic permit upon review and approval by the Environmental Division. I use as condition of understand that well construction may not begin prior to receiving pormit. 3 replace well to be destroyed in a perpait and all terms and conditions apply. titu 28/22

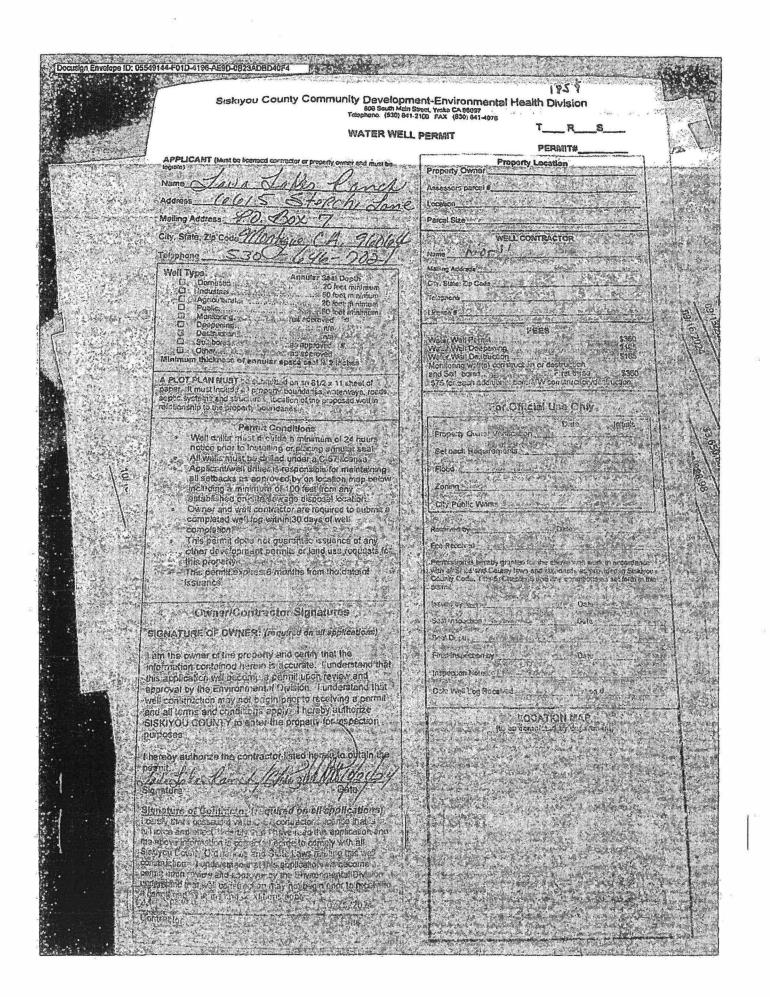
W24121

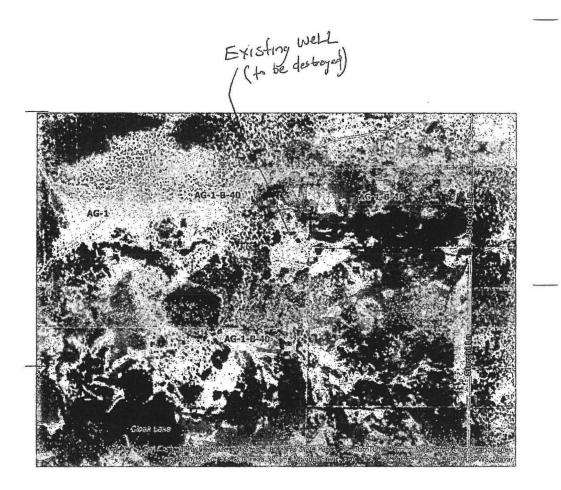
140 Walls



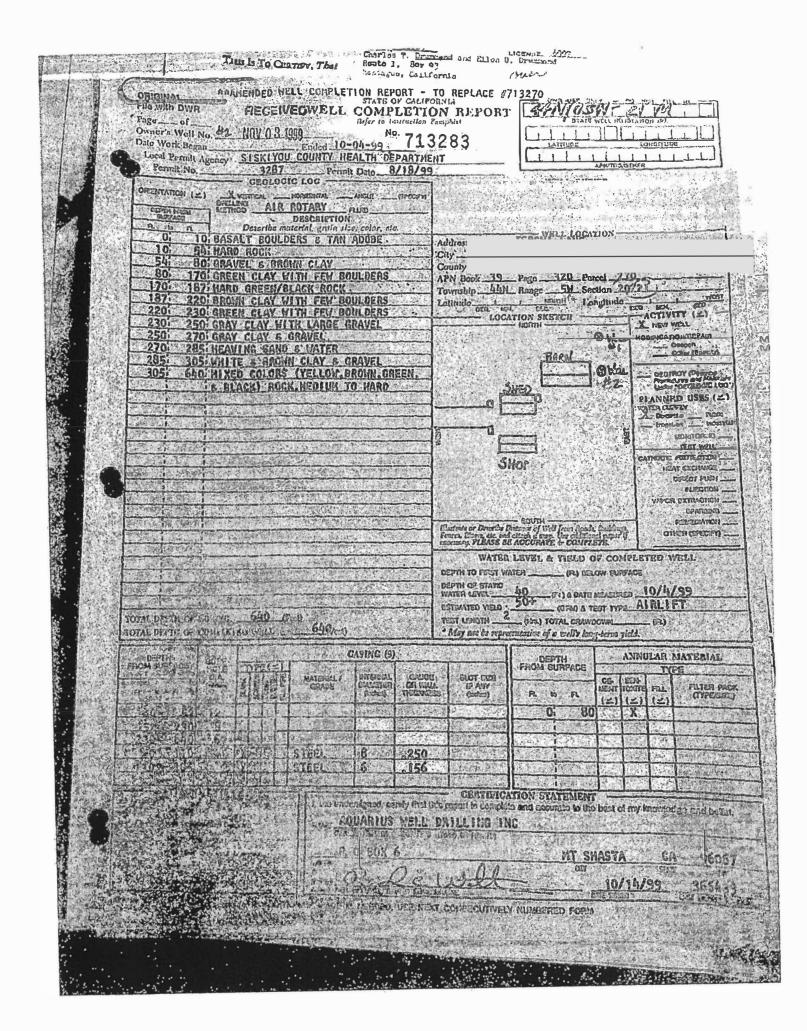












806 S. Main Street | Yreka, California 96097 | T 530 841 2100 | F 530 841 4076 | Environmental Health Department

### **Environmental Health Department** Water Well Permit Application

All new well applications in the Scott River Watershed require submission of the following information, to the extent that it can be reasonably known. The Environmental Health Department collects this information to consider effects on Public Trust resources before a new well permit is issued.

WELL LO		AND OWNER	2			
Well Locatio	on Address:	6615 STERCHI L	ANE		Cit	
Well Loo	cation APN:	039-320-270				
W	ell Latitude:	41.652267		Well	-122.41	9446
				1		
Appli	cant Name:	NORTH STATE	ORILLING		Applicant Tit	e: DRILLING CONTRACTO
Applica	nt Address:	3282 STATE HIG	HWAY 32		Ci	N: CHICO
Applic	cant Phone:	530-891-5545			Applicant ema	ail: dale@wellIndustriesinc.co
						37. 
		LAVA LAKES RA	NCH			
Prop	Address:	6615 STE	ERCHI LAN	NE	Ci	MONTAGUE
Prop	Phone:		7021	Pro	operty Owner ail:	pmarenco40@gmail.com
PROPOS	SED WEL			N SEA		
	1		REPLACEMENT	T IRRIGATI	ON WELL	
Use of		tic 🖪 Irrigation	Small Public V	Vater Suppl	ly 🗆 Municipa	Public Water Supply
Weil:	🗆 Industri	al	D Other:			
IF OTHE	R THAN (	DOMESTIC WE	LL PERMANENT	PASTURE		
Propos	ed Well Ca	pacity (gal/ft):		Esti	mated Pumping	Rate (gal/min): 500 GPM
Anticip	pated Pump	ing Schedule (gal/day):			mated month(s) rch – August: or	

September Estimated Annual Extraction Volume (325,850 gal/acre foot)(acre-feet): T.B.D. Acres to be Served by Well

DECREED WATER RIGHTS fmare nco 400 gmail. com Is the right for the use of all or part of the water that would be extracted through this well subject to a Decree or other Court Order?

YES		NO

If YES, please specify:

Please describe the right in acres served or acre feet adjudicated:

WELL CONSTRUCTION APPLICATION

806 S. Main Street | Yreka, California 96097 | T 530 841 2100 | F 530 841 4076 | Environmental Health Department

SITING INFORMATION					
Distance To Nearest (ft.):	Onsite:	Offsite:	Distance To Nearest (ft.):	Onsite:	Offsite:
Wastewater Treatment System:	>2,000'		Transmission Lines:	UNK.	UNK.
Onsite Well:	>2,000'		Pond/Lake:		> 1 MILE
Sewer Lines:	>2,000*		Stream/River:		> 1 MILE
Animal or Fowl Enclosure:	300'				

MAP INFORMATION

A map of the well location must be attached to this form and shall include the following information: x Legal lot and parcel dimensions. x All well locations on legal lot and parcel with type and use information shown for each well.

x Distance from proposed well to any potential sources of pollution onsite and on adjacent properties.

including: Existing or proposed onsite sewage treatment systems, wells, animal or fowl enclosures, transmission lines, sewer lines.

x Distance from ponds, lakes, and streams within 300 feet.

I hereby certify that the information I have provided is accurate and truthful to the extent reasonably known. I understand that well construction may not begin prior to receiving a permit and all terms and conditions apply. I hereby authorize SISKIYOU COUNTY to enter the property for inspection purposes.

Date: Signed: ody Stilwell, Mgr. 9/25/2023 Information Provided By: Well Driller U Well/Property Owner Other:

### Signature of Contractor (required on all applications)

I certify that I possess a valid C-57 contractor's license that is in full force and effect. I certify that I have read this application and the above information is correct. I agree to comply with all Siskiyou County Ordinances and State Laws relating this well construction. I understand that well construction may not begin prior to receiving a permit and all terms and conditions apply.

ody Stilwell, Mgr. Contractor

9/25/2023