State Water Resources Control Board

September 15, 2025

Michelle Irace
Lake County
255 N. Forbes Street
Lakeport, CA 95453

COMMENT LETTER ON THE LAKE COUNTY (COUNTY), INITIAL STUDY/MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION (ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT) FOR THE COBB COMMUNITY PARK GENERAL PLAN CONFORMITY AND INITIAL STUDY [PL-25-96] (PROJECT); STATE CLEARINGHOUSE #2025080737

Dear Ms. Irace:

Thank you for the opportunity to review the Environmental Document for the proposed Project. The State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water (State Water Board, DDW) is responsible for regulating public water systems and issuing water supply permits pursuant to the Safe Drinking Water Act. This Project is within the jurisdiction of the State Water Board, DDW Mendocino District.

A public water system, as defined in the California Health and Safety Code (Health & Saf. Code) § 116275 subd. [h], is “a system for the provision of water for human consumption through pipes or other constructed conveyances that has 15 or more service connections or regularly serves at least 25 individuals daily at least 60 days out of the year.” If a new public water system will be formed by the Project, an application must be submitted, and a permit must be obtained from the DDW Mendocino District before water can be provided for human consumption. “Human consumption” means the use of water for drinking, bathing or showering, hand washing, oral hygiene, or cooking, including, but not limited to, preparing food and washing dishes.” Health & Saf. Code § 116275 subd. [e].

Note, Health & Saf. Code § 116527 subd. (b) requires that any person submitting a permit application for a proposed new public water system must first submit a technical report at least six months before initiating construction of any drinking water-related improvements. The technical report must include an examination of the possibility of connecting to or being annexed by an existing adjacent community water system. Please see the attached What is a Public Water System flyer.

The State Water Board, DDW, as a responsible agency under the California Environmental Quality Act has the following comments on the County's Environmental Document:

- The Project will develop a community park, with a restroom and drinking fountain (PDF page 4). The park will be used by up to 30 people daily and up to 47 people during events (PDF page 8). Water will be supplied by a new well (PDF page 5). This would meet the definition of a public water system. If no nearby systems agree to serve the Project, the applicant will need to submit a technical report to DDW Mendocino District (Health and Saf. Code § 116527 subd. [b]).
- The proposed Project is within the service area of the Cobb Area County Water District. If connecting to the community system is feasible, discuss this possibility in the Environmental Document.
- If the new well is needed and will be operated by the Cobb Area County Water District, explain this in the document.
- If a new public water system will be created by the Project:
    - In Table 1, please add "The State Water Board, Division of Drinking Water" as an approving agency and "domestic water supply permit" as the approval.
    - Provide a description of the new and existing water system components. Consider water storage, treatment, and fire flow in addition to the new well. Also, discuss the staff required to operate the system.
    - The Clean Water Act and Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act direct the Water Boards to regulate the discharge of pollutants into waters of the United States and Waters of the State. On April 7, 2015, the State Water Board adopted an Amendment to the Water Quality Control Plan for Inland Surface Waters, Enclosed Bays, and Estuaries that added "Final Part 1 Trash Provisions" (the "Trash Amendments") finding that "trash shall not be present in inland surface waters, enclosed bays, estuaries, an along shorelines or adjacent areas in amounts that adversely affect beneficial uses or cause nuisance." The Project will increase public access to Kelsey Creek. Please discuss how the Project will keep trash from significantly impacting the creek. Will educational signage, enforcement of park hours, trash bin placement near the bridge, operations and maintenance that includes trash removal from the creek area, or other actions be a part of these plans?
    - Cal. Code. Regs. § 64572 and Cal. Code. Regs. § 64560 requires separation of drinking water service lines and domestic supply wells from sources of potential contamination. The Project site includes a dog run (PDF page 3). Please indicate if Cal. Code. Regs. can be met or if a waiver or alternative to Waterworks Standards (Cal. Code. Regs. § 64551.100) will be needed. If a waiver is needed, the water system will need to provide the DDW Mendocino District with alternate plans and a waiver approval should be listed as a DDW approval in the Environmental Document.

Once the Environmental Document is adopted, please forward the following items in support of new public water system's permit application to the State Water Board, DDW Mendocino District Office at ddwsantarosa@waterboards.ca.gov:

- The Environmental Document and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan (MMRP);
- All comment letters received and the lead agency responses as appropriate;
- The Resolution or Board Minutes adopting the Environmental Document, MMRP, and approving the Project; and
- The Notice of Determination filed at the County Clerk's Office and the State Clearinghouse.

Please contact Lori Schmitz of the State Water Board at (916) 449-5285 or Lori.Schmitz@waterboards.ca.gov, for questions regarding this comment letter.

Sincerely,

Lori Schmitz

Digitally signed by Lori Schmitz
Date: 2025.09.15 09:02:47 -07'00'

Water Boards

Lori Schmitz
Environmental Scientist
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1001 I Street, 16th floor
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Cc:

State Clearinghouse

Zachary Rounds
District Engineer
Mendocino District