MODOC COUNTY PLANNING DEPARTMENT
203 WEST 4TH STREET
ALTURAS, CALIFORNIA 96101
(530) 233-6406
(530) 233-6420 Fax

2ND AMENDED NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY
DRAFT INITIAL STUDY / PROPOSED MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

Date: August 5, 2026 (revisal of July 15, 2026)

To: Responsible and Trustee Agencies, Organizations, and Individuals

Subject: Draft Initial Study/Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration
Surprise Valley Geothermal Exploration Project (UP 2025-02) Initial Study

Draft Initial Study/Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) for the proposed Surprise Valley Geothermal Exploration Project (UP 2025-02) is now available for review. More information is provided below.

NOTICE IF HERBY GIVEN that the County of Modoc (County) has prepared an Initial Study and Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for the project described herein. A MND is a statement that the project will not result in a significant adverse effect on the environment.

The Modoc County Planning Commission will consider adoption of the MND at a future noticed public hearing before the Commission.

Project Location: The proposed facilities would be located within the Lake City USGS quadrangle in sections 12, 13, and 24 Township 44 north Range 15 east; on APN 026-080-018; APN: 026-100-004; APN 026-100-014; APN 026-100-006; and APN 026-100-008. The proposed development areas are leased to the Applicant by various private landowners. The Project area is relatively flat and presently used for the production of alfalfa or associated agricultural facilities.

Related Zoning and Uses: The well pads would occur in areas designated as Prime Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance, Farmland of local importance or Grazing land by the California Department of Conservation (CDOC). The Project parcels are zoned as Unclassified and general land use designation is Exclusive Agriculture or Exclusive Agriculture/ General Agriculture. APN 026-100-004-000, APN 026-080-009-000, APN 026-100-014, APN 026-100-008, and APN 032-030-001 are under Williamson Act contracts.

Description of Project: The Applicant proposes to develop up to eleven geothermal test wells southwest of Upper Alkali Lake, and 1.85 miles north of Lake City within the Surprise Valley region of Modoc County. Specifically, the Project involves the development of up to eleven geothermal test wells on nine well pads drilled to a depth of 3,000-5,000 feet. During installation, each well pad would accommodate a drilling rig, support equipment, portable bathroom, baker tanks, and project vehicles. Well testing would consist of flowing the exploration well into baker tanks stationed on the well pad and monitoring the captured geothermal fluid for temperatures, pressures, flow rates, chemistry and other parameters. Three new access roads would be developed to access well pads. The proposed access roads would stem off from Surprise Valley Road to the well pads. Existing access roads may require improvements to accommodate transportation of well and drilling equipment. Improved roads may be widened and surfaced as needed.

Primary access to the general Project area is provided by Surprise Valley Road which travels north and south through or adjacent to Project parcels. Existing agricultural roads stemming from Surprise Valley Road provide access to individual well pad development sites and will be improved as necessary to accommodate the proposed development. Up to 1.2 miles of new access roads would be developed to provide direct access to the well pads.

Environmental Topics Evaluated: The Draft IS/MND examines the potential impacts generated by the proposed project in relation to the potential of the project to have an impact on the environment.

Other public agencies whose approval is required (e.g., permits, financing approval, or participation agreement): The County, as Lead Agency for the proposed project, has discretionary authority over the primary project proposal. To implement this project the following discretionary permits/approvals from other agencies will be required:

California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)
California Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB)
Modoc County (Air Quality, Environmental Health)
US Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE)
US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)

Public Review Process: The public comment period begins on **Wednesday, July 1, 2026 and will end on Monday, August 31, 2026 at 5:00 p.m.** Written comments can be mailed or emailed to the attention of Sean Curtis, Planning Director, Modoc County Planning Department, 203 West 4th Street, Alturas, California, 96101; seancurtis@co.modoc.ca.us.

Address Where Copy of the Draft IS/MND is Available: Printed copies of the Draft IS/MND are now available for review at the Modoc County Planning Department, 203 West 4th Street, Alturas, California during normal business hours (Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.) and at the Cedarville Library, 460 Main St. Cedarville, California. The Initial Study can also be accessed and downloaded from the County's website at:
https://www.countyofmodoc.gov/595/Planning-Projects

For more specific questions about the proposed project or the Draft IS/MND please contact Sean Curtis, Planning Director, at (530) 233-6406 (front office) or 530-233-7651 (direct). Questions may also be emailed to Sean Curtis at:
seancurtis@co.modoc.ca.us.

Sincerely,

Sean Curtis

Sean Curtis, Planning Director
Modoc County