

To: Lake County Board of Supervisors

From: Western Region Town Hall Council

RE: SONOMA CLEAN POWER PROPOSAL

The Western Regional Town Hall (WRTH) is a municipal advisory committee (MAC) appointed by the Lake County Board of Supervisors. The WRTH region represents the communities of Lake Pillsbury, Blue Lakes, Bachelor Valley, Upper Lake, and Nice. Through monthly meetings and sub-committee work, we collect community input on critical issues, work toward local solutions, and report out to the Board of Supervisors.

At the July 8th Sonoma Clean Power (SCP) presentation, Supervisor Owen requested SCP present to the MACs to solicit public feedback. SCP attended the WRTH September 17th meeting to outline the proposal and answer community questions. The project was discussed at multiple other WRTH meetings and WRTH community members attended the September 30th presentation from SCP at the Board Chambers.

At our Oct. 15th meeting, the WRTH council continued the discussion around the proposal and whether our community wished for the county to enter the agreement. The council reached a clear consensus: no.

This decision stemmed largely from a sense that too many questions remain unanswered. The proposal as an “opt out” rather than “opt in” does not reflect the choice that the community anticipated. There were concerns on who truly benefited from the proposal if Lake County residents were not guaranteed lower rates, fewer outages, or a more wildfire safe infrastructure. There was significant concern with the outreach efforts that, while not mandated by state or federal law, did not reach out in good faith to our tribal community members, although they will be directly impacted.

This feeling increased significantly with discussion on the Geozone. Residents were concerned about the lack of details—such as the types and locations of plants, the percentage of revenue that would remain in Lake County, and potential environmental impacts. A strong desire to keep Lake County resources within the county was consistently expressed.

Lastly, the lack of equitable representation on the SCP board is worrisome. With only one seat (less than 10% of the board) that represents the unincorporated areas of Lake County, the risk of having a seat at the table but not a voice is too high.

Based on the discussions, the WRTH council respectfully urges the Board to reject the current proposal and seek a more transparent, inclusive, and locally beneficial alternative.

Sincerely,
WRTH COUNCIL