



**COUNTY OF LAKE
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

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October 6, 2026

The Honorable Doug Burgum
Chairman, National Energy Dominance Council
Executive Office of the President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

RE: Decommissioning Scott Dam is Not Inevitable – We Ask Your Support

Dear Honorable Chairman Burgum and Councilmembers:

From the earliest stages of our participation, the Lake County Board of Supervisors has been consistent in challenging the inevitability of Scott Dam and the Potter Valley Project's decommissioning. Our Board has grave concern destroying and draining Lake Pillsbury, an 80,000-acre-foot lake in Northern California, would constitute an expensive and irresponsible gamble with regional water supply; 600,000-750,000 Californians use water diverted by the Potter Valley Project for drinking, household, and agricultural purposes. The area has likewise been repeatedly threatened by catastrophic wildfire events; the lake has been a natural barrier to advancement of two of the largest fires in our state's history since 2018 (*it was also a critical fire suppression resource for both*).

Lake Pillsbury is a community of residents both permanent and seasonal, bringing economic benefits to impoverished Lake County. Over its century of operation, Lake Pillsbury has likewise become home to a diversity of wildlife, from thriving Tule Elk populations to majestic Bald Eagles; it is truly a national treasure, nestled in the Mendocino National Forest, in many respects an *iconic* symbol of American greatness.

Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) would have you believe there is consensus that removal of the Potter Valley Project dams and equipment is the best course, and that Decommissioning is, in fact, inevitable. That could not be further from truth, and, frankly, we cannot afford to let that happen. PG&E estimates Decommissioning, alone, will cost \$532 million (*noted in California Public Utilities Commission filings*), and that

amount does nothing to ensure alternative infrastructure is in place to provide for public and agricultural water supply or fire suppression; total costs will easily reach ten figures.

As members of your Council are aware, the Lake County Board of Supervisors has consistently explored and advocated for alternative actions to the PG&E Surrender and Decommissioning plan; we ask your urgent support of those efforts.

In recent months, Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District has shown interest in acquiring and operating the project facilities, and other groups have begun to also take interest. However, no plan has been shared or crafted, due to PG&E's refusal to make information accessible to interested parties. Their claim is this information cannot be disclosed, because the Potter Valley Project is, "Critical Energy Infrastructure." Yet, the on-site powerhouse has not operated since 2021, and PG&E has no plans to resume.

It is in Lake County's, your Council's, and the broader American interest that PG&E be open and transparent with all information regarding the Potter Valley Project; its removal would fundamentally alter the character of a true rural American gem. PG&E cannot be allowed to drive a process no utility could be equipped to lead; the County of Lake does not take lightly the catastrophic changes that can occur in the Lake Pillsbury area if no alternatives are offered. We ask that your Council join in fully supporting agencies interested in obtaining information from PG&E, California Water Boards, and others in order to craft quality alternative plans for the Potter Valley Project. We ask that your Council put people and well-established animal habitat first, and save Lake Pillsbury.

Respectfully,

COUNTY OF LAKE

Brad Rasmussen, Chair
Lake County Board of Supervisors

Jessica Pyska, Vice Chair
District 5 Supervisor

Helen Owen
District 1 Supervisor

Bruno Sabatier
District 2 Supervisor

Eddie Crandell
District 3 Supervisor

Cc: Honorable Congressman Mike Thompson; Honorable Senator Alex Padilla; Honorable Senator Adam B. Schiff; Honorable Brooke L. Rollins, Secretary of Agriculture; Honorable Aubrey J.D. Bettencourt, Chief, Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA); Honorable Congressman James Gallagher; Honorable State Senator Mike McGuire; Honorable Assembly Majority Leader Cecilia Aguiar-Curry