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COUNTY OF MENDOCINO
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
441 G Street NW
Washington, DC 20314-1000

The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors respectfully requests your assistance in providing the proper funding for the staffing and management at Lake Mendocino, a locally and regionally important recreational facility located in Mendocino County. Any neglect of the recreational infrastructure at Lake Mendocino negatively impacts the visitor experience; the local economy; and threatens the long term viability of the facility.

The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors recognizes and appreciates the significant and enduring benefits to the upper Russian River area that have resulted from the construction of Coyote Valley Dam and the impoundment of waters which have created Lake Mendocino. The Board of Supervisors recognizes that Coyote Valley Dam was constructed and is primarily operated as a flood control project but it is equally true that Lake Mendocino is a valuable public resource that contributes significantly to local and regional recreational opportunities and the economy. Historically, Lake Mendocino has been one of the most visited recreational sites for boating and camping operated by the United States Army Corps of Engineers.

Over the past few decades funding support for the recreation management at Lake Mendocino has not been increased and remains at the mid 1980s level. Recreational management has also been hindered by extended delays in filling both seasonal and permanent positions. The Federal hiring process needs to be streamlined and the recruitment of applicants should be advertized locally or regionally, especially for park rangers and seasonal workers. Funding allocations need to be increased to prevent the deterioration of basic services and infrastructure that may lead to complete or partial closure of this valued public resource.

Lake Mendocino provides a convenient and cost effective recreational opportunity that is of particular benefit to low income families who seek a temporary refuge from summertime temperatures that can exceed 110 degrees. There is no comparable facility in inland Mendocino County that can provide a fraction of the day use and overnight camping opportunities offered by Lake Mendocino.

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In conclusion, the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors respectfully requests your assistance in restoring adequate funding, staffing and management resources to the operation of recreational facilities at Lake Mendocino. In addition, we request your cooperation and timely assistance in exploring any viable alternatives that may result in improved and sustainable management and operation of the recreation so valued by the public at Lake Mendocino.

Sincerely,

John McCowen, Chair
Mendocino County Board of Supervisors

cc: Lieutenant Colonel Rayfield, ACEO San Francisco Division
The Honorable Congressman Jared Huffman