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COUNTY OF MENDOCINO
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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Grant Administrator
California Department of Conservation Division of Land Resource Protection
801 K Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors is writing in support of the Watershed Coordinator proposal submitted by the California Land Stewardship Institute (CLSI) for the Ukiah Valley Groundwater Basin watershed. This funding will allow for a coordinator to support local watershed activities.

The Watershed Coordinator will assist with several programs to support local watershed and groundwater sustainability activities. These activities include coordination with public and private landowners to develop groundwater recharge projects, maintain current well and stream gaging at 12 sites and expansion to include 3 more gaging stations, design of a nested gaging network to address surface/groundwater interactions in this groundwater basin, a major issue to groundwater dependent ecosystems as defined in SGMA. The Watershed Coordinator will also address fire/fuel load reduction projects with local agencies and landowners in both wildland areas and rural residential neighborhoods. Working with farmers and ranchers and the CLSI Fish Friendly Farming and Ranching programs the Watershed Coordinator will complete water quality conservation plans. In addition, the coordinator will work with local agencies and organizations to produce a series of workshops on water conservation, groundwater recharge, conjunctive surface and groundwater use, diversion coordination and stream flows.

The California Land Stewardship Institute (CLSI) is a non-profit organization dedicated to planning and implementing environmental stewardship, restoration and enhancement programs and projects including educational activities, scientific studies, promotion of beneficial stewardship practices and resource conservation activities. For 23 years, the staff of CLSI has been working with private landowners in the Ukiah Valley Groundwater Basin watershed to implement Beneficial Management Practices (BMPs) to improve water quality and habitat for salmonids. CLSI has also been working with the local Farm Bureau and growers to implement water management, water conservation and the Russian River frost programs.

CLSI has demonstrated its capability and expertise on numerous watershed efforts over the years. The Board of Supervisors supports this grant application and urges your recommendation for funding it.

Sincerely,

John Haschak, Chair

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