



Anderson Springs

Community Alliance

Preserving our natural resources & quality of life

August 4, 2003

Honorable Ed Robey, Supervisor
County of Lake, District 1
Board of Supervisors
255 North Forbes Street
Lakeport, CA 95453

Application for Funding and Other Assistance

Dear Ed,

Thank you for your letter dated May 5th in response to our application of April 21, 2003, in which we requested funding and other assistance for a Baseline Assessment & Monitoring Program. We regret that it has taken until now for us to respond to your letter, largely due to our having unexpectedly found ourselves facing a new threat to our community in the form of Personal Support Group's project (we had wrongly presumed that geothermal development and wastewater injection from Lake County and Santa Rosa would be the sole threats to Anderson Springs).

To start, we would like to clarify why our April 21st letter was not copied to Mark Dellinger (though I have honored your request and copied him on this letter). We originally did not include Mr. Dellinger for three reasons: 1) We felt it best to start our application with top officials of Lake County only, due to the seriousness of our concerns and sensitivity about use of funds (beyond County officials, you may have noticed that we limited circulation of our original letter to only one representative of Anderson Springs' other two organizations and the Friends of Cobb Mountain); 2) Although we recognize that Mr. Dellinger is your key staff person relative to the geothermal pipeline and related issues, we believed there could be inherent conflicts of interest and objectivity problems to expect independent oversight within the same department responsible for wastewater injection (the major cause of our problems); and, 3) Mr. Dellinger has been quite outspoken (including in the Press) that our concerns are unwarranted and that adequate monitoring & protections already exist.

We agree that Anderson Springs is fortunate to have an excellent air quality monitoring program, which marks an ongoing success for the County, geothermal operators, and residents of Anderson Springs (though it should be acknowledged that this program and related improvements to emissions from geothermal powerplants/wells only resulted after years of concerted effort to improve a deplorable air quality situation—with similar denials and opposition from the geothermal operators as is now happening with induced seismicity). Candidly, we hope that with the County's support we can achieve similar successes to resolve the latest geothermal impacts on Anderson Springs without these problems continuing for years or getting even worse, as was the case with our water supply, creeks, and air quality.



Concerning other programs in place to monitor water and seismicity, we feel that although beneficial, these programs need to be greatly expanded to provide adequate oversight of new impacts on our creeks and homes. For example, while The Geysers does have outstanding, recently expanded arrays of seismometers, this information (though invaluable for monitoring changes in seismicity) offers little insight into impacts of these earthquakes on people, structures, springs, property, etc. Also, these arrays of seismometers were installed more for the benefit of scientists within the geothermal industry and at organizations like USGS and Lawrence Berkeley Labs than as mitigations and benefits for nearby communities.

Similarly, little monitoring occurs of our changing hot springs or the area's former mercury mines; aquatic monitoring excludes numerous tributaries, happens too infrequently, and doesn't monitor many important factors. Current monitoring programs often lack independence (being performed directly by the geothermal operators), seldom include representatives from affected communities in program design and interpretation of results, and rarely have any consequences that will result from negative findings. [These same problems were just repeated with approved mitigations of Personal Support Group's project, particularly the flawed manner in which the County reviewed & resolved this project's septic impacts and determined a program for creek monitoring that purports to safeguard the environment & our community.]

We appreciate your request for more specifics and a project budget relative to a Baseline Assessment & Monitoring Program, but feel that would be premature to what we were requesting in our last letter:

1. We asked "for the County's commitment to work with our organization immediately to define, launch, and fund a comprehensive Baseline Assessment & Monitoring Program sometime later this year, starting with an initial allocation of \$6,830 to support these efforts (available from remaining monies in the current fiscal year's water resources fund of AB-1905)."
2. We also sought "recommendations from the County for appropriate individuals and departments with sufficient knowledge, authority, and independence to partner with our organization on this program."

We still wish to partner with the County to establish necessary mechanisms to safeguard communities in the area of Anderson Springs and Cobb, we know this is the intended & proper use for the County's AB-1905 revenues, and we're willing to help the County apply for outside matching funds to accomplish these objectives.

In addition to urgency of establishing a baseline with adequate monitoring prior to Santa Rosa's more than doubling injection volumes at The Geysers, we felt it was critical to notify you prior to completion of the County's budgeting cycle for this fiscal year, both to remind you of the legislated purposes, eligibility & requirements for using AB-1905 funds and to ensure that a minimum of \$300,000 of these funds were reserved towards the approximately \$600,000 we anticipate for a much-needed Baseline Assessment & Monitoring Program. Alternatively, we are open to discussing other options for using AB-1905 revenues to safeguard our community, which might include establishing a fund to repair property damage, provide insurance, and offer other benefits to our community as compensation for negative impacts resulting from the County's activities. In any case, we reiterate the importance of ensuring these funds are properly used and want to make sure that those revenues not used for their legislated purposes be retained in a separate subaccount, so they may be later disbursed as intended under the law.

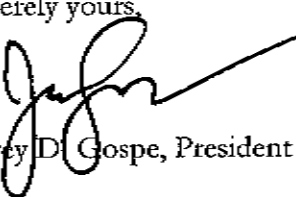
Our community is grateful for the County's assistance relative to the Anderson Springs Sewer Feasibility Study and the Middletown Library Project you referenced in your letter, however, it should be noted that these are the types of projects for which one would expect to see these funds utilized (not the exception, as appears to be the case historically). Furthermore, we presume you are aware that the Anderson Springs Sewer Feasibility Study is actually a loan with repayment required if our community moves forward with a sewer system.

Ed, we appreciate your willingness to be of assistance and hereby request that the issues raised in this application be brought to the Board of Supervisors immediately, particularly in light of current budget hearings and implications for use of AB-1905 revenues.

Additionally, we propose a meeting between key representatives of our communities and appropriate County officials to start cooperative discussions about specifics for partnering on a Baseline Assessment & Monitoring Program, or considering other mitigations using these funds. To schedule a date & time for such a meeting, please contact Joan Clay at 987-0243 or Meriel Medrano at 987-0277.

Like you, we hope mutually acceptable solutions can be found to safeguard our communities. We seek to co-exist with geothermal operations, but we'd like to find a way to share in its benefits, not just experiencing its problems.

Sincerely yours,



Jeffrey D. Gospe, President

Cc: Gary Lewis, Chairman, Board of Supervisors and Supervisor, County of Lake, District 3
Jeff Smith, Supervisor, County of Lake, District 2
Anthony Farrington, Supervisor, County of Lake, District 4
Rob Brown, Supervisor, County of Lake, District 5
Cameron Reeves, County Counsel, County of Lake
Kelly F. Cox, Administrative Officer, County of Lake
Mark Dellinger, Administrator, Special Districts, County of Lake
Meriel Medrano, Vice President, Anderson Springs Community Alliance
Joan Clay, Community Liaison, Anderson Springs Community Alliance
David Henderson, Chairman, Anderson Springs Community Service District
Robert Marelli, President, Anderson Springs Homeowners Association
Hamilton Hess, Vice-Chair, Friends of Cobb Mountain
Allison C. Hargrave, Counsel, Battaile & Hargrave