



COUNTY OF LAKE

Board of Supervisors

Courthouse - 255 North Forbes Street

Lakeport, California 95453

Telephone (707) 263-2368

Fax (707) 263-2207

Ed Robey
District 1 Supervisor

May 5, 2003

Jeffrey D. Gospe, President
Meriel L. Medrano, Vice President
Joan K. Clay, Community Liaison
Anderson Springs Community Alliance
P.O. Box 884
Middletown, CA 95461

Dear Jeff, Meriel and Joan:

In response to your letter dated April 21, 2003, in which you request funding in the amount of \$300,000 and "other assistance related to a Baseline Assessment & Monitoring Program for research, monitoring, and mitigation of a variety of negative impacts from geothermal operations that surround our community in Anderson Springs," I have met with Mark Dellinger, our Director of Special Districts and Kelly Cox, our Chief Administrative Officer to discuss your proposal.

I assume it was an oversight that you did not send a copy of your letter to Mr. Dellinger, who is our key staff person regarding the geothermal pipeline and the issues related to it. I have provided Mr. Dellinger a copy of your letter, and ask that he be included in any future communications regarding this topic.

The concerns of County residents, in Anderson Springs and elsewhere, have long been recognized by the Board of Supervisors, as evidenced by past and ongoing efforts to assist that community. In response to geothermal concerns, the County has participated in over 20 years of comprehensive monitoring that include the following air, water, and seismic components:

Air: Geysers Air Monitoring Program (GAMP): one of the several air quality monitoring stations installed and operated at The Geysers is purposely located within the community of Anderson Springs. This station continuously monitors and records wind direction and velocity, air temperature and humidity, and most importantly the concentration of hydrogen sulfide in the air. These results and those of other surrounding stations are routinely reviewed by the Lake and Sonoma County Air Quality Management District staff and the GAMP Committee.

Water: Water quality monitoring occurs at 8-10 locations within the Anderson Creek drainage. Sampling points are located on Anderson Creek, Gunning Creek, Bear Canyon Creek, and Cub Creek. These results are routinely reviewed by the Lake Community Development Department staff.

Seismicity: U.S. Geological Survey seismic recording system: This nationwide seismic recording system includes seven stations in the Geysers region, and has been used over the past 25 years to continuously monitor and record all seismic events of magnitude 1.1 and greater that occur in this area, which include all events that can be felt by those that live in Anderson Springs and elsewhere. These results have been available to the public via the Internet within minutes of their occurrence.

An additional seismic recording system has very recently been installed as a separate and even more sensitive 23-station array to record the seismicity occurring throughout the Geysers area, including the Anderson Springs community. This Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory Seismic Array is funded by a \$600,000 grant from the California Energy Commission and by an additional \$157,000 from the geothermal operators at the Geysers. It will be used to establish baseline conditions prior to the start of the Santa Rosa pipeline project.

Calpine Strong Motion Accelerometers: One station installed in Anderson Springs and one installed in Cobb Valley. These continuously monitored units are intended to measure ground acceleration from seismic events.

All of the seismic data listed above is available via the Internet on a real time basis (within two minutes of occurrence). In addition, this information is provided to the Lake County Seismic Monitoring Advisory Committee semi-annually, along with geothermal production and injection data for the Southeast Geysers area.

Although I obviously want to be of assistance and support to you, it is unclear to me what additional monitoring of what issue is needed or justifiable in terms of data value beyond the comprehensive program currently in place.


Anderson Springs Community Alliance
Re: Funding Application
May 5, 2003
Page Three

With regards to the funding, while it is true that we currently have the unexpended funds mentioned on page 4 of your letter in our Budget Unit 1018, these funds are already committed to a number of projects, including the Anderson Springs Sewer Feasability Study and the Middletown Library Project. These funds have been saved up over a number of years and I believe that funding in the amount you are requesting would need to be accumulated from new funds received rather than taking them from projects for which the funds are already encumbered.

I have reason to believe that the newly increased monitoring program will be adequate for collection of data related to the impacts of geothermal injection in your area and that the program which you are proposing at a total cost of \$600,000, half to be paid for by the County, from AB 1905 funds, is not actually necessary at this time. However, you have asked in your letter that I bring your request to the Board of Supervisors for consideration, and I will do so if you do not agree with my position stated above. If you do wish to have your proposal presented to the Board of Supervisors, I will need more details regarding specifically how the \$600,000 would be spent, preferably in the form of a project budget.

I appreciate your concerns and hope that we can all work together toward finding a mutually acceptable solution. We have been very successful in addressing issues involving geothermal development for more than twenty years, and I am confident we will be able to work together cooperatively to address the issues over which we have current concerns.

Sincerely,



Ed Robey
County Supervisor, District 1

ER/kcb

cc: Mark Dellinger