

Army Corp of Engineers 1160 Lake Mendocino Dr. Ukiah, CA 95482

July 6, 2017

Dear Sirs,

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Mendocino County Tourism Commission, I am writing to express our deep concern over the management of Lake Mendocino. It has come to our attention that the Corps has insufficient staff and commitment to maintaining this important facility, and is even contemplating a partial or complete closure.

From our perspective, Lake Mendocino is a vital resource and asset for our community, not least of which is as an attraction for tourists. After suffering through years of drought, the lake has fully recovered and is, perhaps more than ever, worth a visit by county residents and out-of-county travelers alike. Any closure would be a huge blow to the local economy, hurting numerous businesses and people here – not only in the tourism space, but in other industries that benefit from the jobs and disposable income that tourism yields.

We support the efforts of volunteer groups such as Pac Out Green Team to work with the Corps to maintain the lake and its facilities. We encourage the Corps to continue outreach, and commit additional resources, to keep the lake open, clean, and safe. We recognize the challenges but we strongly believe a closure of Lake Mendocino represents the worst possible option in dealing with them. We also stand ready to work with the Corps and others to find solutions that benefit everyone.

Lake Mendocino has the potential to generate more than a half-million visitors and more than \$10 million in economic impact. To thwart that potential would serve no good purpose and put the lake in more peril while punishing the very people who most use and enjoy it.

Sincerely,

Alan Humason Executive Director Mendocino County Tourism Commission