

Board OKs contract for firm to analyze effects of Scott Dam decommissioning

By Nikki Carboni

LAKEPORT>>> The Lake County Supervisors approved a contract with SLR International Corporation for the analysis of effects of the proposed Scott Dam decommissioning despite a protest from UC Cooperative Extension Lake County. They also heard an update regarding proposition 64 grants for illegal cannabis abatement and internal policy development in progress.

Deputy Administrator Walker Smith, alongside Community Development Director Mireya Turner, presented an update on a grant award stemming from the October 2020 for “Proposition 64 Grants — Cohort one, for illegal cannabis abatement; and Internal policy development in progress”. Cohort one was a three year grant from which a total of \$996,000 was awarded and of that \$944,000 was paid out based on approved expenses including laptops, body cameras, mobile printers, a vehicle, new software, drones and, of course, staff and the appropriate training. Approximately half of the grant was also used for Lake County Office of Education for WRAP services. Due to these grants and the efforts put forth 2,686 cannabis code enforcement activities were completed within three years resulting in 24,605 plants eradicated. Although there were 736 sites identified, none of which had been administered fines.

District 2 Supervisor Bruno Sabatier said, “I’d love to see those fines starting, it gives a little less incentive to start doing the exact same thing that we just spent hours and hours working on to try and dissuade them from doing so.”

Cohort three was awarded in May 2023 and is to span five years ending in April 2028. Cohort three began in October of 2023 and according to Smith, continues to “fund two officers as well as needed equipment, replacement computers, drones, kevlar vests, laser measures, uniforms, office supplies, etc.” Members of the board requested a body cam policy since cameras have already been purchased. Turner responded that they are working on creating a policy with the Lake County Sheriff’s Office. This matter will return to the board of supervisors in November.

The board also processed a formal protest from UC Cooperative Extension Lake County regarding an “Agreement in the not -to-exceed amount of \$691,068 between the County of Lake and SLR International Corporation for analysis of effects of proposed Scott Dam Decommissioning.” Treasurer/Tax Collector Patrick Sullivan gave an overview of the Scott Dam Project

“Earlier this year the County of Lake was awarded a \$700,000 grant from the California Department of Water Resources to conduct an analysis of the potential effects of PG&E’s proposed the decommissioning of Scott Dam,” he said, adding that the county issued Request for Proposal number 2432 seeking qualified candidates, receiving two bids, one from SLR and one from UCCE.

Laura Garza, Area Water Quality, Quantity and Climate Change Advisor for the UCCE, presented the protest asking the board to reconsider stacking “I believe that the proposal submitted by UCCE presents a far more detailed and technically sound project to present to the FERC proceedings on July 2025, but also aligns more closely with the long-term commitments for Lake County.”

UCCE proposed several reasons arguing the validity and importance of their bid as their group has already done studies of this area that relate to this study, that they have worked in this community currently and in the past, also noting that the SLR proposal is only five pages long and contains several errors. Garza also noted that SLR was given an opportunity to meet with the selecting committee to discuss the proposal “While UCCE was not given a similar chance to discuss their proposal despite requesting clarification of any questions on June 12 and June 14.