

RESOLUTION NO. _____

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF SISKIYOU
AUTHORIZING AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION EASEMENT PROPOSALS TO THE
CALIFORNIA FARMLAND CONSERVANCY PROGRAM OF THE CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION FOR THE FRENCH CREEK, MARBLE PEAKS, &
NOVY RANCHES LOCATED IN SISKIYOU COUNTY, CA**

WHEREAS, the Legislature has established the California Farmland Conservancy Program within the Department of Conservation, and through a grant program is providing assistance to conserve important agricultural land resources that are subject to conversion pressures, and;

WHEREAS, the Siskiyou Land Trust, a local nonprofit organization, intends to acquire conservation easements over approximately 3,065 acres +/- of irrigated pasture, grazing and woodlands located within the Scott and Shasta River valleys near the cities of Etna, Grenada, and Gazelle in unincorporated Siskiyou County, for the purpose of conserving priority agricultural land resources, and;

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors of Siskiyou County authorizes the easement proposal and certifies that the easement proposals meet the eligibility criteria set forth in Public Resources Code Section 10251, to wit:

(a) The parcels proposed for conservation is expected to continue to be used for, and is large enough to sustain, commercial agricultural production. The land is also in an area that possesses the necessary market, infrastructure, and agricultural support services, and the surrounding parcel sizes and land uses will support long-term commercial agricultural production.

(b) Siskiyou County has a general plan which demonstrates a long-term commitment to agricultural land conservation. This commitment is reflected in the goals, objectives, policies, and implementation measures of the plan, as they relate to the area of the Scott River valley where the easement acquisition is proposed.

(c) Without conservation, the land proposed for protection is likely to be converted to nonagricultural use in the foreseeable future.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors authorizes the filing of three applications for funding from the California Department of Conservation's California Farmland Conservancy Program.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors on September 7, 2021, by the following vote:

AYES:
NOES:
ABSENT:
ABSTAIN:

Ray A. Haupt, Chair
Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:
LAURA BYNUM,
COUNTY CLERK

By _____
Deputy

Findings in Support of the Proposed Resolution:

1. The French Creek, Marble Peaks, and Novy ranches and surrounding properties are currently in commercial agricultural production and the local land use pattern, physical infrastructure and business services systems in the Scott and Shasta Valleys provide necessary support for this industry, including roads, water delivery systems, equipment distribution and repair services, marketing systems, etc.
2. The Siskiyou County General Plan, Scott Valley Area Plan, and other County policies including the Right-to-Farm Policy demonstrate a long-term commitment to continued agricultural production on the French Creek, Marble Peaks, and Novy ranches and within the Scott and Shasta Valleys.
3. As a result of water uncertainties, market conditions, energy costs, regulatory constraints, generational changes, and other factors, commercial agriculture within the Scott and Shasta Valley and Siskiyou County is subject to substantial economic challenges. Unless these conditions change, commercial agriculture may become economically infeasible within the foreseeable future and large landholdings like the French Creek, Marble Peaks, and Novy ranches may be subject to development pressure that could result in subdivision and sale.