

State of California, County of Siskiyou

Board of Supervisors Minutes, January 24, 2023

The Honorable Board of Supervisors of Siskiyou County, California, met in special session this 24th day of January 2023; there being present Supervisors Brandon Criss, Michael N. Kobseff, Nancy Ogren, Ray A. Haupt and Ed Valenzuela, County Administrator Angela Davis, County Counsel Edward J. Kiernan, and County Clerk and ex-Officio Clerk of the Board of Supervisors Laura Bynum and Deputy County Clerk Taylor Brummett.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Valenzuela. Supervisor Kobseff led in the salute to the flag of the United States of America.

Presentations from the Public

Chair Valenzuela advised to those present and participating via Zoom that public comments should be limited to the agenda items and that these special meetings concerning the dam removal project will be held at the end of each month as needed.

California Department of Fish & Wildlife - Presentation regarding the collaborative activities, Lower Klamath Decommissioning Project, grant funding dedicated to the Shasta and Scott Rivers, and other updates related to the Klamath Watershed. Presentation only.

California Department of Fish and Wildlife Director Chuck Bonham appeared before the Board via Zoom. Mr. Bonham advised he would provide an update of milestones made in the last few months, provide detail in collaborative work between the county and agencies on the dam removal project and restoration grant funding opportunities that will be made available within the county.

Mr. Bonham continued providing a general update, referring to the county staff report provided with this agenda item, and milestones made since November 2022 with regard to the project, including the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) order, the delivery of fire protection equipment to the County Fire Chiefs Association.

Mr. Bonham advised of a recent Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the county, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Klamath River Renewal Corporation (KRRRC) and PacifiCorp and summarized topics within the MOA, including funding from PacifiCorp to allow for a Project Manager for the County and funding to upgrade/improve roads within the project area. Mr. Bonham additionally advised of construction of a new hatchery facility in the Spring of 2023 at Fall Creek and updates to the City of Yreka water infrastructure. Mr. Bonham advised of the potential for restoration progress in the tributaries to the Klamath and the need to enhance collaboration in the Scott and Shasta Rivers and that \$20,000,000 had been allocated for projects with the Scott and Shasta Rivers and the availability of federal restoration funding within the basin as well.

Supervisor Kobseff expressed appreciation to the Department of Fish and Wildlife to allow more transparency on this issue than in the past, attempts to identify additional water storage and expressed a need to end conflicts within the watershed. In response to Supervisor Kobseff, Mr. Bonham advised of the feasibility of high mountain lake water supplies and the commitment to conservation with water users, tribes, county, state and federal government to address water issues.

In response to Supervisor Kobseff, Mr. Bonham advised that open conversations will need to be held as the removal project progresses and is implemented with regard to natural barriers within the Klamath River and also provided information regarding the dams not altering a 100-year flood level.

Supervisor Criss advised of impacts to home values in the Copco Lake area since the beginning of this project, sharing concerns to the wells once the dams are removed and inquired how residents could access the mitigation funding. Mr. Bonham advised that the local mitigation funding would be available for the concerns expressed by Supervisor Criss.

Continued. . .

California Department of Fish & Wildlife –Continued

In response to Supervisor Criss, Mr. Bonham advised of the need to address and improve water storage levels to balance across all interests and additionally advised of relocation efforts of some of the sucker fish behind the reservoirs to wildlife refuges.

Supervisor Haupt expressed appreciation to the high mountain lakes project, requesting Mr. Bonham to support the legislation to bring the rest of Siskiyou County into the Sierra Nevada Conservancy, the use of the dams to moderate flood impacts down the Klamath River, the need to keep the Hwy 96 corridor passable and the need for the United States Forest Service (USFS) to keep the Grayback Road maintained year round as an alternate route to those on Hwy 96. Mr. Bonham advised that forest health is an overall dynamic and advised of State efforts to reduce fuels.

In response to Supervisor Ogren's questions with regard to the time frames for erosion and sediment control plans/monitoring and the new fish hatchery, Mr. Bonham advised that templates will be developed for monitoring and it is scheduled through 2030 and based on a contract with Mr. Bonham advised that with regard to the fish hatchery that construction will be in 2023 and should be a short construction phase. Supervisor Ogren also inquired where the fish would go once released from the hatchery, in which Mr. Bonham advised they would be released into the river for tribal and recreational harvest, similar to current conditions at the current hatchery.

Presentations from the Public

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County Administration - Update regarding the Lower Klamath Decommissioning Project. No action or presentation.

No action or presentation was taken regarding this item.

Adjournment - There being no further business to come before the Board of Supervisors, the meeting was adjourned.

Attest:
Laura Bynum, County Clerk

Ed Valenzuela, Chair

By: _____
Deputy