May 22, 2023

Robert Goyeneche

Cal OES, Inland Region

806 S. Main Street

Yreka, CA 96097

**Subject: Tulelake Public Safety Hazard – Soil Profile Collapse**

Dear Mr. Goyeneche:

The three counties of Modoc and Siskiyou, California and Klamath, Oregon are writing this letter to express our support for the May 5, 2023, letter to Cal OES, from the Tulelake, CA community (attached). The May 5th letter details emerging issues throughout the Tulelake area, centering around the collapse of the area’s soil profile due to the lack of surface irrigation water. The soil profile collapse has impacted a wide range of infrastructure throughout Tulelake, however, the May 5th letter specifically requests the State’s assistance to assess the safety of the Tulelake High School gymnasium and other public buildings.

The letter from the Tulelake community describes in accurate detail the history of the Tulelake basin, and just as important changes to the area over the last several decades, which has led to the current public safety concerns. Our three counties have been strong advocates for the Klamath Watershed, and more specifically for the legal responsibility we hold to protect the health, safety, and welfare of our citizens. The viability of the Tulelake High School is essential to the socioeconomic health of the area as it provides education for the children of generational family farmers and ranchers, the children of those employed by farmers and ranchers, and numerous other families. In addition, Tulelake High School is an important employer in the area.

As the attached letter states, we respectfully request the assistance of Cal OES and the State to provide the resources and funding needed to provide safety for our children, and the whole community. The three counties are available to provide any information or assistance needed.

If you are interested in discussing this further, we will certainly make ourselves available at your convenience. Please contact Elizabeth Nielsen at enielsen@co.siskiyou.ca.us by email or (530) 842-8012 by phone.

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Sincerely,

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Ed Valenzuela, Chair

Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors

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Michael N. Kobseff, Vice-Chair

Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors

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Brandon Criss, District 1

Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors

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Nancy Ogren, District 4

Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors

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Kathie Rhoads, Chair

Modoc County Board of Supervisors

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Shane Starr, Vice-Chair
Modoc County Board of Supervisors

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Ned Coe, District I

Modoc County Board of Supervisors

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Elizabeth Cavasso, District IV

Modoc County Board of Supervisors

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Geri Byrne, District V

Modoc County Board of Supervisors

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Derrick DeGroot, Chair

Klamath County Commissioners

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Kelly Minty, Vice-Chair

Klamath County Commissioners

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Dave Henslee, Position 1

Klamath County Commissioners

cc: Director, Siskiyou County Office of Emergency Services

 Director, Modoc County Office of Emergency Services

 Assembly member Megan Dahle

 Senator Brian Dahle