

State of California, County of Siskiyou

Flood Control and Water Conservation District Minutes

June 20, 2023

The Honorable Directors of the Flood Control and Water Conservation District of Siskiyou County, California, met in regular session this 20th day of June 2023; there being present Directors Nancy Ogren, Brandon Criss, Ray A. Haupt, Ed Valenzuela and Michael N. Kobseff, County Administrator Angela Davis, District Counsel Natalie E. Reed, and County Clerk and ex-Officio Clerk of the Board of Directors Laura Bynum by Deputy County Clerk Wendy Winningham.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Valenzuela.

Off-agenda item – County Administrator’s Office – State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) Notice of Opportunity to Comment and of Public Hearing on a petition for rulemaking to set minimum flows on the Scott River. Staff directed to prepare written comments.

District Counsel Natalie E. Reed provided an overview of the request to consider an urgency item related to the State Water Resources Control Board Notice of Opportunity to Comment and of Public Hearing on a petition for rulemaking to set minimum flows on the Scott River. Ms. Reed advised that staff was in need of Board input in order to develop a comment letter to be brought back for approval prior the SWRCB’s comment deadline of July 20, 2023.

It was moved by Director Kobseff, seconded by Director Ogren and carried, following a roll call vote with Directors Haupt, Kobseff, Criss, Ogren and Valenzuela voting YES, to add an item not on the posted agenda with regard to State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) Notice of Opportunity to Comment and of Public Hearing on a petition for rulemaking to set minimum flows on the Scott River.

Later in the meeting, Deputy County Administrator Elizabeth Nielsen appeared before the District Board, distributing and summarizing a four-page State Water Resources Control Board’s Notice of Opportunity to Comment and of Public Hearing on a Petition for Rulemaking to set minimum flows on the Scott River. Ms. Nielsen requested the Board’s input/comments related to the petition that was submitted by the Karuk Tribe, Environmental Law Foundation, Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen’s Associations and Institute for Fisheries Resources, and upcoming public hearing.

Discussion followed between members of the District Board and Ms. Nielsen regarding the need to question the anticipated process to determine how minimum flows on the Scott River, the potential impact of the petition on adjudicated water rights, the SWRCB’s process for receiving petitions that are then set for public hearing and comments and the benefits associated with staff and members of the Board personally appearing and commenting at the August 15, 2023 public hearing in Sacramento.

It was the consensus of the District Board to direct staff to prepare written comments for Board approval on July 11th for submission prior to the SWRCB’s July 20th deadline.

Public Comment

There were no public comments received.

Consent Agenda – Approved.

At Director Kobseff’s request, item 7B2, the Flood District’s letter supporting Groundwater Sustainability Agencies DWR Implementation Grant Proposals, was pulled from the consent agenda for discussion.

It was moved by Director Kobseff, seconded by Director Ogren and carried, following a roll call vote with Directors Haupt, Kobseff, Criss, Ogren and Valenzuela voting YES, that the following consent agenda is approved, and the Chair and/or clerk authorized to execute/record any necessary documents:

Flood Control and Water Conservation District - Approve the contract, authorize the Chair to sign, and authorize the Auditor to establish budget.

Flood Control and Water Conservation District - Ratify letter to the California Department of Water Resources expressing support for the Groundwater Sustainability Agencies DWR Implementation Grant Proposals for the Butte, Scott and Shasta Valley Groundwater Basins. Approved.

This item was pulled from the consent agenda at Director Kobseff's request.

In response to Director Kobseff, Natural Resource Policy Specialist Matt Parker appeared before the District Board, advising that the Department of Water Resources (DWR) recommended a support letter from the Flood District and summarized the grant proposal timeline.

Following brief discussion regarding the benefits to offset General Fund monies associated with the grant funding, it was moved by Director Kobseff, seconded by Director Ogren and carried, following a roll call vote with Directors Haupt, Kobseff, Criss, Ogren and Valenzuela voting YES to ratify the letter to the Department of Water Resources.

Transfer of Funds – Siskiyou County Flood Control & Water District - \$530,000. Resolution FLD 23-05 adopted.

It was moved by Director Kobseff, seconded by Director Ogren and carried, following a roll call vote with Directors Haupt, Kobseff, Criss, Ogren and Valenzuela voting YES, to adopt Resolution FLD 23-05, Transfer of Funds, Siskiyou County Flood Control & Water District, in the amount of \$530,000.

Minute Approval – June 6, 2023. Approved.

It was moved by Director Ogren, seconded by Director Kobseff and carried, following a roll call vote with Directors Haupt, Kobseff, Criss, Ogren and Valenzuela voting YES, to approve the June 6, 2023 minutes as presented.

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

Attest:
Laura Bynum, County Clerk

Ed Valenzuela, Chair

By: _____
Deputy