

# State of California, County of Siskiyou

## Board of Supervisors Minutes, April 1, 2025

The Honorable Board of Supervisors of Siskiyou County, California, met in regular session this 1<sup>st</sup> day of April 2025; there being present Supervisors Jess Harris, Ed Valenzuela, Michael N. Kobseff, Nancy Ogren and Ray A. Haupt, County Administrator Angela Davis, County Counsel Natalie E. Reed and County Clerk and ex-Officio Clerk of the Board of Supervisors Laura Bynum by Deputy County Clerk Wendy Winningham.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Ogren. Pursuant to AB23, the Clerk announced that the Board members receive no additional compensation for sitting as members of the Siskiyou County Flood Control and Water Conservation District and Siskiyou Power Authority. Sheriff Jeremiah LaRue led in the salute to the flag of the United States of America.

**Invocation** - Siskiyou County Sheriff Chaplain Keith Bradley provided an invocation.

### **Presentations from the Public**

Siskiyou Economic Development Council (SEDC) Executive Director Tonya Dowse appeared before the Board and provided an update regarding the status of the Yreka Carnegie Library Rehabilitation Project and provided an overview of additional projects within the County utilizing the same tax credit financing tool/model.

Siskiyou Economic Development Council (SEDC) Director of Agriculture and Innovation Gillies Robertson appeared before the Board, providing an overview of a 13-week Food Venture Bootcamp, for food, beverage and other retail food businesses/entrepreneurs. Mr. Robertson advised that graduates would be eligible to apply for a \$25,000 California Office of Small Business Grant to further their business. In addition, Mr. Robertson advised of working with partners toward developing various workshops (i.e. organic transition workshop and financial workshops) and provided an update regarding the Healthy Soils Program.

### **Consent Agenda – Approved.**

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

#### County Administration

    Ratify a letter to The Honorable Tina McKinnor, in opposition to AB 339 (Ortega) Local public employee organizations: notice requirements.

#### County Administration - Personnel

    Adopt Resolution P 25-36 amending the Siskiyou County Salary Schedule, Position Allocation List, and new classifications specifications for positions in County service effective April 13, 2025.

#### County Administration

    Approve letter in support of the 12<sup>th</sup> annual Art of Survival Century Team bicycle ride event and authorizes the Chair to sign.

#### General County Fire

    Approve donation of asset number 920864, a Chevy Type 3 pickup (mileage 65,000, estimated value of \$0) to the Tulelake Multi-County Fire District and instruct staff to complete the necessary documentation.

#### Sheriff

    Approve the Sheriff's addendum for annual software maintenance and on-going support from Sun Ridge Systems, Inc. through August 25th, 2026 in the amount of \$54,477.00 and not to exceed \$702,038.00 for the term of the contract.

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## **Consent Agenda – (continued)**

Transfer of Funds - Communications - \$165,180. Resolution 25-37 adopted.

Transfer of Funds - Courthouse and Grounds - \$30,000. Resolution 25-38 adopted.

Transfer of Funds - Courthouse and Grounds - \$33,000, Resolution 25-39 adopted.

Transfer of Funds - Local Assistance/Tribal Consistency Fund - \$1,101,228. Resolution 25-40 adopted.

Transfer of Funds - Sheriff - \$66,149. Resolution 25-41 adopted

Transfer of Funds - Sheriff - \$213,000. Resolution 25-42 adopted.

**Public Requests** - First 5 Siskiyou Children and Families Commission - Discussion, direction and possible action re Siskiyou Child Abuse Prevention Council Collaborative Proclamation proclaiming April 2025 as Child Abuse Prevention and Sexual Assault Awareness month and April 5-11, 2025, as the Week of the Young Child. Proclamation adopted.

First 5 Siskiyou Children and Families Commission Executive Director Karen Pautz appeared before the Board, providing an overview of the request for adoption of a Collaborative Proclamation and distributing a 32-page packet of information on the First 5 Commission and various upcoming events (i.e. Career and Resource Fairs, family-oriented and parenting group get togethers, etc.). In addition, Ms. Pautz summarized a report in the packet entitled: The Economics of Abuse Report – A Study of Siskiyou County (the financial impacts of child abuse).

Project Support Coordinator Mckenzie Bolls appeared before the Board and summarized the various materials provided during Child Abuse Prevention Month and Week of the Young Child and associated programs provided at local schools and resource centers.

Following brief discussion regarding a future agenda item regarding the financial impacts of child abuse report, it was moved by Supervisor Kobseff, seconded by Supervisor Harris and carried, following a roll call vote with Supervisors Valenzuela, Haupt, Harris, Kobseff and Ogren voting YES to sign to adopt the 2025 Collaborative Proclamation taking a stance against Child Abuse and Domestic Violence as well as honoring the celebration of the Week of the Young Child April 5-11<sup>th</sup> for Siskiyou County's children.

**District Attorney - Victim Witness** - Discussion, direction and possible action re Resolution proclaiming April 6-12, 2025, as Crime Victims' Rights Week in the County. Resolution 25-43 adopted.

Victim Services Coordinator Cynthia Billingsley appeared before the Board, providing an overview of the Resolution proclaiming Crime Victims' Rights Week and inviting members of the Board to an Open House on April 10<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Billingsley and Chair Ogren read the Resolution into the record.

It was moved by Supervisor Valenzuela, seconded by Supervisor Harris and carried, following a roll call vote with Supervisors Valenzuela, Haupt, Harris, Kobseff and Ogren voting YES to adopt Resolution 25-43 declaring April 6-12, 2025, Crime Victims' Rights Week in Siskiyou County.

**Sheriff** - Discussion, direction and possible action re request to issue payment to the State of California, in the amount of \$100,000 in order to resume ownership of needed boating patrol equipment. Sheriff authorized to issue payment, in the amount of \$100,000 to the State of California in order to resume ownership of needed patrol equipment; Associated budget transfer also approved (agenda item below).

Sheriff Jeremiah LaRue appeared before the Board, advising of communicating with Senator Megan Dahle's Office in an effort to resolve the issue of a revoked grant. Sheriff LaRue further advised that the State Office of Boating and Waterways had given the Department a deadline of April 20, 2025 to return the boat/vessel purchased with grant funds or to return the grant funding.

Supervisor Kobseff voiced concerns regarding the State's revocation of the grant, advising that there was little hope that the State would accept a different, larger vessel in exchange for the newer vessel purchased with the grant funds.

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## **Sheriff – (continued)**

Discussion followed between members of the Board and Sheriff LaRue regarding the April 20<sup>th</sup> deadline, the possibility that the State would reconsider and accept the larger boat in exchange for the newer one, the availability of non-General Fund Rural Sheriff's funding to payback the revoked grant should the State not accept the larger boat, the Department's minimal use of the larger vessel, the benefits associated with retaining the newer vessel which was set up specific to the Department's request,

It was moved by Supervisor Haupt and seconded by Supervisor Harris to authorize the Sheriff to issue payment to the State in the amount of \$100,000 in order to resume ownership of needed patrol equipment and allow the Auditor to establish budget appropriations.

Further discussion followed, including County Counsel Natalie E. Reed regarding the inability to include in the motion a request that return of the newer vessel be expediated as the item was not agendized to allow that request, the Chair called for the vote. Following a roll call vote with Supervisors Valenzuela, Haupt, Harris, Kobseff and Ogren voting YES, the motion to authorize the Sheriff to issue payment to the State in the amount of \$100,000 carried unanimously.

**Transfer of Funds - \$100,000.** Resolution 25-44 adopted.

It was moved by Supervisor Harris, seconded by Supervisor Haupt and carried, following a roll call vote with Supervisors Valenzuela, Haupt, Harris, Kobseff and Ogren voting YES to adopt Resolution 25-44, Transfer of Funds, in the amount of \$100,000.

**Agriculture** - Presentation re update on current wolf activity, livestock depredations, and the status of compensation program for livestock depredations. Presentation and discussion only.

Agriculture Commissioner Jim Smith appeared before the Board, introducing Siskiyou County Wolf Liaison Patrick Griffin to provide an wolf activity update and advising of the potential that grant funding to support Mr. Griffin's work would be renewed.

Mr. Griffin appeared before the Board and provided an update regarding the status of wolf presence in the County, including the Whaleback pack, 78 confirmed and 9 probable confirmed cattle depredations since 2022, the state and federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) listing of the wolves and the compensation program in place to reimburse for the direct cost of cattle lost to wolf depredation. Mr. Griffin shared concerns that the original \$600,000 compensation fund may not meet the demands should the wolf activity increase and spoke in support of possible legislation to permanently fund a compensation program. Mr. Griffin advised that the Whaleback pack appeared to be in a lull from depredations during the winter months and natural livestock losses due to the weather conditions. Mr. Griffin spoke in support of beginning efforts to request delisting of wolves as their numbers have increased in the state, and voiced concerns that many in California would not be convinced or support delisting of the animals. Mr. Griffin advised that a status review under the California ESA was due in 2022 (five years since the listing in 2017) and that the California Wolf Plan recommended a status review when the Plan is in Phase 3 (currently the Plan is in Phase 2 with at least four breeding pairs of wolves in the State. Phase 3 of the Plan will occur when eight or more breeding pairs are present for two consecutive years). Mr. Griffin recommended that the Board consider whether to request a status review and possible delisting in the current Phase 2 or wait for Phase 3 (in 2026 or 2027).

In response to Supervisor Haupt regarding possible diseases in wolves and/or ungulate populations, Mr. Griffin advised that anyone handling captured wolves and/or scat samples are required to wear gloves and protective gear.

Supervisor Haupt spoke in support of efforts to inform the public and hunters of possible diseases in the animal population and shared concerns regarding the lack of a 'take statement' in the California ESA and the associated potential negative impacts to citizens wishing to do habitat rehabilitation activities. Supervisor Haupt suggested that the Board work with legislators to address revision to the California ESA and further expressed concerns regarding the California Department of Fish and Wildlife not following the Wolf Plan and lack of initiative by the Department to avoid the process of delisting.

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## **Agriculture – (continued)**

Discussion followed between members of the Board and Mr. Griffin regarding the benefits associated with and possible timing for requesting a status review of the listing, the need for a multiplication factor with respect to the financial losses and costs of depredated livestock/damaged herds, increased depredation of cattle by wolves as ungulate populations dwindle, the need for the State to increase the compensation fund and the need to develop letters requesting delisting at the State and Federal levels.

Mr. Griffin summarized improvements to the notification system that provides certain wolf location and status notifications for ranchers' and landowners' use.

Supervisor Harris spoke in support of taking action to request delisting of the animals and revision of the California ESA as suggested by Supervisor Haupt.

Further discussion followed, including concerns regarding the increased financial losses to ranchers beyond the direct costs of losing animals/livestock (i.e. negative impacts to cattle birth rates and longevity when wolves are present), the potential negative impacts of wolf presence on public land (grazing) permit holders and the need to address the management agency regarding issues with the wolf plan and management activities.

**Health and Human Services Agency** - Discussion, direction and possible action re the Enforceable Service Funding Commitment Letter, and authorizing the Director of Health and Human Services Agency to sign the letter and the County Administrator or designee to execute future agreements and documents required for the Homekey+ application and project implementation. Letter approved.

Health and Human Services Agency Director Sarah Collard and Project/Housing Coordinator Maddelyn Bryan appeared before the Board.

Ms. Collard provided a brief overview of the revisions made to the Commitment Letter following previous discussions with the Board, including prioritizing veterans in the housing project. Ms. Collard advised that a sample Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was included in the agenda item backup for reference.

Supervisors Haupt and Kobseff shared concerns regarding the lack of veteran preference in the included MOU.

Supervisor Kobseff additionally shared concerns regarding the dollar value of the in-kind Behavioral Health Services (BHS) included in the letter and suggesting that the developer cover the costs associated with those services.

Discussion followed between Supervisor Kobseff, Ms. Collard and Ms. Bryan regarding previous housing projects that have not been realized or did not include a veteran preference, the Homekey+ Project's mentally ill and veteran priorities, the requirement that the value of BHS in-kind services be included in the Commitment letter, the difficulties encountered while attempting to place and house clients (i.e. in local motels/hotels, etc.) as various BHS programs require, the funding sources for housing individuals/families, the anticipated process to adapt the MOU to Siskiyou's needs for the Board's review/approval and the veterans priority language in the draft Commitment Letter.

Supervisor Kobseff shared concerns regarding recent grant revocation from a County department and the associated negative impacts.

Supervisor Valenzuela voiced support for efforts to develop and provide housing within the County.

Further discussion followed between members of the Board, Ms. Bryan and Ms. Collard regarding possible language revision (in the letter and MOU) to address veterans priority, the status of those housed in the new Foothill Drive, Yreka development and the process utilized to address the Homekey+ Project priorities.

Supervisor Harris voiced concerns regarding the need to address mental disorder and abuse issues versus developing additional homeless housing in Yreka.

Supervisor Ogren spoke in support of efforts to develop housing for those unhoused individuals and families that would be willing to utilize the facilities.

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## **Health and Human Services Agency – (continued)**

Audience member Pastor Mike Beckstrom appeared before the Board and voiced support for the proposed housing project and the potential benefits for the unhoused population.

It was moved by Supervisor Valenzuela and seconded by Supervisor Haupt to approve the Enforceable Service Funding Commitment Letter, authorize the Director of Health and Human Services Agency to sign the letter, authorize the County Administrator or designee to execute future agreements and documents required for the Homekey+ application and project implementation.

In response to Supervisor Haupt concerning unhoused veterans priority in the letter, County Counsel Natalie E. Reed suggested the addition of the following verbiage on page 2 concerning Prioritization: The County's consent is conditioned on this priority (add after tenant selection plan).

The motion maker and second agreed to the added language.

Following discussion regarding the recommended motion authorizing the County Administrator or designee to execute future agreements/documents in an effort to expedite processing should the Board approve the Commitment Letter request, the associated MOU that would be back for the Board's consideration and concerns regarding the General Fund dollars being used for services to the homeless population, the Chair called for the motion. Following a roll call vote with Supervisors Valenzuela, Haupt and Ogren voting YES and Supervisors Harris and Kobseff voting NO, the motion to approve the Enforceable Service Funding Commitment Letter, authorize the Director of Health and Human Services Agency to sign the letter, authorize the County Administrator or designee to execute future agreements and documents required for the Homekey+ application and project implementation, with the added verbiage on page 2 concerning Prioritization: The County's consent is conditioned on this priority, carried.

**County Administration** - Discussion and possible direction re Secure Rural Schools Act funding that the County receives via the federal government. Presentation and discussion only.

Deputy County Administrator/Chief Fiscal Officer Sherry Lawson appeared before the Board, sharing concerns that the federal Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act (SRS) was not renewed/reauthorized in 2024. Ms. Lawson provided an overview/history of the SRS that began in 2000, to provide certain financial assistance in rural counties to offset the loss of timber revenues. Ms. Lawson shared concerns regarding the potential negative impacts associated with non-renewal of the SRS to schools, emergency services and Public Works/roads projects.

Discussion followed between members of the Board regarding concerns that the SRS had bipartisan support but failed to be approved in the US House of Representatives, discussions with legislators regarding the importance of SRS funding, potential passage of the funding during federal budget consideration, concerns that there needs to be permanent funding to cover lost timber revenues versus annual consideration of reauthorizing the funding, funding that was guaranteed in the Northwest Forest Plan in 1993 that has diminished over the years,

Supervisor Kobseff spoke in support of a letter to Congressman Lamalfa with regard to securing a permanent funding source for the SRS at historical funding levels and support for federal funding of the Forest Service.

Ms. Lawson advised that she would proceed with Supervisor Kobseff's letter suggestion/direction.

**Board of Supervisors' Requests** - Board of Supervisors - Review status of local emergency related to impacts resulting from Lower Klamath Dam removal declared by Resolution 24-51, adopted on March 26, 2024; action to extend or terminate local emergency. Local emergency extended.

Office of Emergency Services Director Bryan Schenone appeared before the Board, summarizing water quality testing results and advising that test for heavy metals were below drinking water standards. Mr. Schenone further advised that the Klamath River Renewal Corporation (KRRRC) agreed to continue to provide drinking water delivery (to tanks while awaiting wells to be drilled) until April 15, 2025 although the County has requested that be continued into May, 2025.

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## **Board of Supervisors' Requests - Board of Supervisors – (continued)**

Mr. Schenone advised that there were no air quality issues and provided an overview of two recent flow events that did not show impacts from flooding.

Supervisor Harris advised of the need to continue the emergency proclamation due to unknowns related to possible flooding issues and availability of drinking water.

Community Development Director Rick Dean appeared before the Board. In response to Supervisor Haupt regarding water quality testing, Mr. Dean advised that the Department could sample/test water quality as needed and warranted.

Discussion followed between members of the Board, Mr. Dean and Mr. Schenone regarding the types of tests, processes and timelines utilized for sampling/testing water quality in the Klamath River, the impact of heavy metal testing on Community Development (i.e. staff time and associated costs), the failing state of Copco Road and efforts to maintain its condition and the possible need for an emergency declaration related to the status and condition of the road.

Supervisor Valenzuela suggested research into applying for State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) funds to improve/repair the road and shared concerns regarding the negative impacts associated with Secure Rural Schools (SRS) Act not being reauthorized nor funded at the federal level.

Supervisor Ogren spoke in support of continuing the emergency into summer to account for possible future rain events.

In response to Supervisor Harris' suggestion that the emergency be extended and possibly altered/reworded at a future date, County Counsel Natalie E. Reed advised that if new factual circumstances were found, a new emergency declaration would be warranted and not a revision of the current emergency declaration. Additionally, Ms. Reed advised that, if continued/extended, the current emergency declaration would be considered by the Board again within 60 days.

County Administrator Angela Davis recommended that the current emergency declaration be extended and if another emergency declaration were to be developed, the current could be terminated.

Following further discussion, including Ms. Reed and Ms. Davis, regarding the potential for two different emergency declarations to be in place (one for dam removal impacts (water issues) and another for the road conditions) and the ability of the Board to terminate an emergency when no longer needed, it was moved by Supervisor Harris, seconded by Supervisor Haupt and carried, following a roll call vote with Supervisors Haupt, Harris, Kobseff and Ogren voting YES and Supervisor Valenzuela voting NO, to extend the local emergency related to impacts resulting from Lower Klamath Dam removal declared by Resolution 24-51.

In response to Mr. Dean, it was the consensus of the Board to approve discontinuation of heavy metal sampling/testing by the Community Development Department.

Brief discussion followed between members of the Board and Mr. Dean regarding the process for testing water well conditions and associated funding resources for the sampling/testing activities.

**Minute Approval - March 18, 2025 (special) March 18, 2025 (regular).** Approved.

It was moved by Supervisor Kobseff, seconded by Supervisor Haupt and carried, following a roll call vote with Supervisors Valenzuela, Haupt, Harris, Kobseff and Ogren voting YES to approve the March 18, 2025 (special) and March 18, 2025 (regular) minutes as presented.

## **Board and Staff Reports**

Supervisor Haupt advised of his attendance at a Licensed Foresters breakfast, a Bear Plan meeting via ZOOM/teleconference phone and his attendance and participation in a Patriots meeting. Additionally, Supervisor Haupt advised of attending a memorial for a fallen firefighter and the Farm Bureau banquet.

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## **Board and Staff Reports – (continued)**

Supervisor Kobseff advised of his attendance at a Golden State Natural Resource (GNSR) meeting, a Redd Zone presentation (salmon recovery) with Supervisor Haupt in Fort Jones, a Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC) meeting in Sacramento and a wolf update meeting. Supervisor Kobseff additionally advised of attending the Farm Bureau dinner, a fundraiser in Mt. Shasta for an individual waiting for a kidney transplant and of meeting with California Natural Resources Secretary Wade Crowfoot at RCRC regarding Shasta and Scott Valley drought orders and the number of salmon the area produces.

Supervisor Harris advised of his attendance at a meeting, including Supervisor Kobseff, with Congressman Doug Lamalfa, an Ore-Cal Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Council meeting, a Licensed Foresters breakfast with Supervisor Haupt, a Grenada sports dinner, Big Spring Elementary School DARE graduation and the Farm Bureau dinner.

Supervisor Valenzuela reported on his attendance at a Mt. Shasta City Council meeting with Public Works Director Tom Deany concerning roads and snowplowing, a County Medical Services Program (CMSP) meeting in Sacramento and a meeting with JD Carbone with FLT Lake Siskiyou Resort, LLC regarding Lake Siskiyou and the Resort/Campground. In addition, Supervisor Valenzuela advised of meeting an AT&T Northern California representative in Sacramento regarding Carrier of Last Resort (concerning the provision of telecommunications services).

Supervisor Ogren advised of her attendance at an Ore-Cal Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Council meeting, a Licensed Foresters meeting with Supervisors Haupt and Harris, a Siskiyou Wildfire Mitigation Coalition meeting, a wildfire advisory meeting, a Cradle to Careers for Siskiyou (C2C4S) meeting, Grenada athletics dinners, a North Coast Resource Partnership (NCRP) Executive Board meeting, an Ore-Cal RC&D wildlife overpass meeting and a Collier Interpretive and Information Center (CIIC) meeting in Dorris. Additionally, Supervisor Ogren advised of her participation in a Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC) meeting and Golden State Connect Authority (GSCA) meeting via ZOOM/teleconference phone, a retirement party for Chief Probation Officer James Roach and the Farm Bureau dinner.

**Closed Session** - Conference with legal counsel, existing litigation pursuant to Government Code §54956.9(d)(1), two cases, commenced at 11:23 a.m., concluded at 11:40 a.m., with no action taken.

### **Report On Closed Session**

County Counsel Natalie E. Reed announced that closed session concluded at 11:40 a.m., with no reportable action taken.

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

Attest:  
Laura Bynum, County Clerk

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Nancy Ogren, Chair

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy