

State of California, County of Siskiyou

Board of Supervisors Minutes, August 12, 2025

The Honorable Board of Supervisors of Siskiyou County, California, met in regular session this 12th day of August 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. Supervisor Haupt 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

Copco resident Woody Wikum appeared before the Board and shared concerns regarding multiple potholes in Copco Road and the damage done to his and others' vehicles. Mr. Wikum further shared concerns regarding the potential for the Road Department to delay repairs to the road until 2026.

Consent Agenda – Approved.

At Supervisor Kobseff's request, item 5D – Community Development's Memorandum of Understanding Lead Agency Responsibilities for the Springhill Mine between the City of Mt. Shasta and the County and item 5G – Health and Human Services – Social Services Division's Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention Program, Round 6 Joint Application and Regional Coordination Memorandum of Understanding were pulled from the consent agenda for discussion.

It was moved by Supervisor Valenzuela, seconded by Supervisor Haupt 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/County Counsel

Approve the tax sharing agreement between the County of Siskiyou and City of Yreka regarding the distribution of taxes upon annexation of real property to the City (Evans-Wilmarth Annexation). Authorize the Board Chair to execute said agreement.

County Administration - Personnel

Approve and adopt the Proclamation congratulating and recognizing Dan Wessell for 24 years of dedicated service and contributions to the community upon his retirement from Siskiyou County.

Community Development

Approve and authorize the Chair to sign, the 1st Addendum to the contract between the Siskiyou County Community Development Department and Mintier Harnish.

General County Fire

Approve the Fire Protection Reimbursement Agreement with CalFire and the Notice of Intent letter to Greg Roath, Unit Chief with CalFire and authorize the Chair to sign them. Under Agreement 2CA07278, the County agrees to pay \$615,186.00 for CAL FIRE contracted services for staffing of the Hornbrook Station and Yreka Interagency Command Center for the term July 1st, 2025 through June 30th, 2026.

General Services - Airports

Ratify the FAA grant application and adopt Resolution 25-134 authorizing the County Administrator to execute any documents necessary to obtain financial assistance with the FAA AIP grant on behalf of the County of Siskiyou for the Scott Valley ALP project. Adopt the Resolution to apply, accept and execute the State Match for the Scott Valley ALP project. Authorize the auditor to establish the budget.

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Consent Agenda – Approved.

Sheriff-Coroner

Approve the first addendum to the contract for facility and staff services from Janus Advisor, Inc. through June 30th, 2030 at the rates identified in Exhibit A. Allow the Auditor to make appropriations.

Treasurer - Tax Collector

Approve the contract for services with The Data Center to print and mail the Siskiyou County secured property tax bills for fiscal years 2025-26, 2026-27, and 2027-28.

Transfer of Funds - General Services - \$198,822. Resolution 25-135 adopted.

Community Development – Planning - Ratify the County Administrator's execution of Memorandum of Understanding Lead Agency Responsibilities for the Springhill Mine between the City of Mt. Shasta and the County of Siskiyou for the County to become Lead Agency for the Springhill Mine should they expand the mine into the County's jurisdiction at the following locations: APNs: 021-060-010, 057-771-360, 057-771-070 and 057-771-080. Approved.

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

Deputy Director of Planning Hailey Lang appeared before the Board. In response to Supervisor Kobseff, Ms. Lang advised that it was anticipated that the mining project would move into County jurisdiction and that the County would be considered manager for the Springhill Mine operation as required by Surface Mining and Reclamation Act (SMARA) regulations/laws. In addition, Ms. Lang advised that costs associated with the project would be absorbed by the project and not the City or the County.

It was moved by Supervisor Kobseff, seconded by Supervisor Valenzuela and carried, following a roll call vote with Supervisors Valenzuela, Haupt, Harris, Kobseff and Ogren voting YES to authorize the County Administrator to execute the MOU with the City of Mt. Shasta as to the Springhill Mine.

Health and Human Services Agency - Social Services - Approve the Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention Program, Round 6 Joint Application and Regional Coordination Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the counties of Del Norte, Lassen, Modoc, Plumas, Shasta, Sierra and Siskiyou, the NorCal Continuum of Care and Training, Education and Community Help, Inc., with the California Department of Housing and Community Development, in funding amounts detailed in the MOU and approve Exhibit A - Regionally Coordinated Homelessness Action Plan. Approved.

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

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

In response to Supervisor Kobseff, Ms. Bryan advised that a priority for homeless veterans was written into the Plan following input from the Board of Supervisors, including assessing the impacts associated with new projects prior to expansion or creation of new projects. Ms. Bryan additionally advised that no new projects were proposed within the grant being considered and that veterans would be considered first in the housing selection process, with other priority populations to follow.

Discussion followed between members of the Board, Ms. Bryan and Ms. Collard regarding the need for data related to veterans in need of or receiving services, upcoming changes to mental health services funding that could impact the County and a possible waiver of State requirements concerning the amount to be spent on housing and non-housing projects.

Supervisor Kobseff recommended prioritizing veterans and Siskiyou County residents (versus out of the area/transient populations) first when providing certain services

Ms. Bryan provided a brief overview of the process utilized for assessing local residents in need of services.

Supervisor Harris spoke in support of efforts to develop mental health and substance abuse service facilities closer to the County population.

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Health and Human Services Agency - Social Services – (continued)

Further discussion followed regarding the inability of the Department to support nearby mental health or substance abuse prevention facilities, efforts being made to collaborate with northern California counties toward developing a facility in the Redding area and the negative impacts of associated with long distance on substance abuse rehabilitation.

It was moved by Supervisor Valenzuela, seconded by Supervisor Ogren and carried, following a roll call vote with Supervisors Valenzuela, Haupt, Harris, Kobseff and Ogren voting YES to approve the MOU and Regionally Coordinated Homelessness Action Plan. Authorize the CAO to approve changes requested by HCD as well as non-substantive changes requested by other parties. If awarded funds, authorize the County Administrator or Designee to receive and execute the grant agreement and subsequent HHAP-6 documents. Authorize the Auditor to appropriate the budget and set expenditures.

County Administration – Personnel - Discussion, direction and possible action re Proclamation recognizing Administrative Services Manager III Camaron Rightmier for 26 years of dedicated service and contributions to the community upon her retirement. Proclamation adopted and presented.

Deputy County Administrator – Personnel and Risk Management Hayley Hudson appeared before the Board with Administrative Services Manager III Camy Rightmier and provided an overview of the request to adopt a Proclamation recognizing Ms. Rightmier at the time of her retirement.

Chief Probation Officer Erin Welch, Assistant Chief Probation Officer Stacey Jackson, Sheriff Jeremiah LaRue, Office of Emergency Services Director Bryan Schenone, Health and Human Services Agency Director Sarah Collard, County Administrator Angela Davis, Housing Project Coordinator Maddelyn Bryan and Supervising Probation Officer Yvette Romo appeared before the Board and spoke about Ms. Rightmier, her work ethic and efforts benefiting several County departments.

First 5 Siskiyou Children and Families Commission Executive Director was unable to provide a message to Ms. Rightmier via teleconference phone. Ms. Collard read a text from Ms. Pautz regarding Ms. Rightmier's work with the First 5 into the record.

Ms. Rightmier thanked the Board for the recognition and advised of plans to relax and travel during retirement.

Supervisor Ogren read the Proclamation into the record.

It was moved by Supervisor Harris, seconded by Supervisor Kobseff and carried, following a roll call vote with Supervisors Valenzuela, Haupt, Harris, Kobseff and Ogren voting YES to approve and adopt the Proclamation congratulating and recognizing Camaron Rightmier for 26 years of dedicated service and contributions to the community upon her retirement from Siskiyou County.

Members of the Board thanked Ms. Rightmier for her service and presented the Proclamation.

Facilities Management - Presentation re Siskiyou County Facilities Management 2025 Department update. Presentation and discussion only.

Facilities Management Director Amanda Kimball appeared before the Board and presented a powerpoint regarding an update regarding the new Department's first year, including the Communications, Janitorial and Maintenance (formerly Courthouse and Grounds) Divisions. Ms. Kimball summarized various completed and ongoing projects and accomplishments for each Division, including each Division's staffing levels and photos of completed projects and upgrades.

Discussion followed between members of the Board, Ms. Kimball and County Administrator Angela Davis regarding projects considered requests or scheduled maintenance, the benefits associated with an 'in-house' janitorial team and use of existing County facilities versus expanding into private sector facilities and the need for an update regarding a master plan for the County Government Center (old courthouse) building.

Sheriff - Discussion, direction and possible action re request to extend the State of Emergency related to the proliferation of illegal cannabis cultivation, declared by Resolution 25-11, adopted on January 21, 2025. Local emergency extended.

Sheriff Jeremiah LaRue appeared before the Board and requested continuation of the State of Emergency related to illegal cannabis cultivation in the County.

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Sheriff – (continued)

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 approve renewal of the 60-day State of Emergency terms within Resolution #25-11, regarding proliferation of illegal cannabis cultivation. Direct the Clerk to bring back the Emergency Resolution for Board reconsideration, in alignment to not lapse every 60 days.

Office of Emergency Services - Discussion, direction and possible action re request to extend a local emergency regarding illegal pesticides and illicit cannabis operations declared by Resolution 25-109, adopted on July 1, 2025. Local emergency extended.

Office of Emergency Services Director Bryan Schenone appeared before the Board and provided an overview of the request to extend the local emergency regarding illegal pesticide use in the County.

In response to Supervisor Harris, Mr. Schenone advised that the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) denied the County's request for the state to declare a State emergency in the County with regard to illegal pesticides and illicit cannabis cultivation. In addition, Mr. Schenone advised that the State would be asked to visit the affected sites and to provide soil and/or water samples to federal agencies concerned with the hazardous pesticides.

Sheriff Jeremiah LaRue appeared before the Board, advising that, following the Board's adoption of Resolution 25-109, the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) local Region 9, was launching an investigation into the County's hazardous materials/pesticides associated with illicit cannabis cultivation.

Mr. Schenone advised that the EPA Region 10 (from Oregon) had reached out to the County with regard to same.

It was moved by Supervisor Haupt, seconded by Supervisor Kobseff and carried, following a roll call vote with Supervisors Valenzuela, Haupt, Harris, Kobseff and Ogren voting YES to approve the resolution (25-109) and direct staff to bring the resolution back every sixty days for consideration of extension.

Office of Emergency Services - Discussion, direction and possible action re draft letter to California Governor's Office of Emergency Services voicing opposition to denial of the County's State of Emergency request re illegal pesticide use in Siskiyou County. Approved; letter from the Board regarding the same approved.

Office of Emergency Services (OES) Director Bryan Schenone appeared before the Board, providing an overview of the draft letter voicing opposition to denial of the County's illegal pesticide use State of Emergency.

Discussion followed between members of the Board, Mr. Schenone and Community Development Director Rick Dean regarding estimated costs related to hazardous site cleanup efforts and cost estimates approximately \$25,000-\$30,000 to mitigate hazardous materials.

County residents Eliza Ya and Fitz Ya appeared before the Board, sharing concerns regarding the need to make an effort to educate the community that may be using these pesticides as to the dangers involved by allocating funding to provide that education.

Mr. Schenone shared concerns regarding the negative impacts associated with the State not declaring a State of Emergency in the County which limits certain of the County's public safety/emergency response.

Further discussion followed regarding the need to create means to provide education and outreach to the local community regarding the pesticide and other issues (i.e. the need for proper permits for certain activities), a one-time pesticide collection amnesty event planned for August 13, 2025 to be conducted by outside contractors, anticipated cost reimbursement by the Department of Pesticide Regulation, OES efforts to coordinate with Public Health with regard to possible pesticide exposure situations, the potential benefits of setting up message boards in the area to alert public to the possible dangers, many unknown compounds in the illegal pesticides and the potential felony charges that could be associated with possession and use of those pesticides.

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Office of Emergency Services – (continued)

County Administrator Angela Davis requested that the Board include a draft letter from the Board in with the recommended motion to approve the OES opposition letter.

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 approve draft letter to California Governor's Office of Emergency Services voicing opposition to denial of the County's State of Emergency request re illegal pesticide use in Siskiyou County; and approve a letter stating the same to be sent on behalf of the Board of Supervisors.

Office of Emergency Services - Discussion, direction and possible action re draft letter to US Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary voicing opposition to the withholding of DHS funds from sanctuary jurisdictions which poses immediate and significant risks to public safety. Approved; letter from the Board regarding the same approved.

Office of Emergency Services (OES) Director Bryan Schenone appeared before the Board, providing an overview of the draft letter voicing opposition to the withholding of federal Department of Homeland Security (DHS) funding from sanctuary jurisdictions and summarizing a recent meeting with Congressman Doug LaMalfa regarding the County's concerns. Mr. Schenone spoke in support of a letter from both the OES and the Board of Supervisors.

Supervisor Kobseff requested that the letters be copied to the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), the California State Association of Counties (CSAC) and state legislators.

Discussion followed between members of the Board and Mr. Schenone regarding the County's adoption of Resolution 17-25 declaring the County was not a sanctuary jurisdiction and the pros/cons associated with possible renewal or reconsideration of the sanctuary jurisdiction effort.

County Administrator Angela Davis requested that the Board include a draft letter from the Board in with the recommended motion to approve the OES opposition/comment letter.

It was moved by Supervisor Haupt, seconded by Supervisor Kobseff and carried, following a roll call vote with Supervisors Valenzuela, Haupt, Harris, Kobseff and Ogren voting YES to approve draft letter to the Federal Government regarding potential loss of funding for the State Homeland Security Program and the Emergency Management Performance Grant; and approve a letter stating the same to be sent on behalf of the Board of Supervisors.

Mr. Schenone advised that he would provide an update regarding an upcoming meeting concerning the impacts of denial of the funding throughout the state.

Board of Supervisors' Requests - Supervisors Ray Haupt and Michael N. Kobseff - Discussion, direction, and possible action regarding a letter to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's Wildlife Conservation Board providing comments and recommendations on the proposed Shackleford Forest Conservation Easement Project over approximately 12,213.2 acres located west of Mugginsville in the Scott Valley.

Project Coordinator Joanne Johnson appeared before the Board, providing a brief overview of the request and advising of the need to modify the letter. Ms. Johnson requested that the five Board members' signature lines be replaced with the Chair's signature line only.

Supervisor Haupt thanked CalFire Siskiyou Unit representatives for providing clarity regarding the California Wildlife Conservation Board's proposed Shackleford Forest Conservation Easement Project and requested that CalFire, as the administrators of the proposed project, place proactive emphasis on fuels management, including smaller diameter and understory fuels.

Supervisor Kobseff requested the addition of 'and gain the support of the Board of Supervisors' in the last sentence of the letter. In addition, Supervisor Kobseff requested that Assemblymember Heather Hadwick and Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC) be copied on the letter.

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Board of Supervisors' Requests - Supervisors Ray Haupt and Michael N. Kobseff – *(continued)*

It was moved by Supervisor Haupt, seconded by Supervisor Kobseff and carried, following a roll call vote with Supervisors Valenzuela, Haupt, Harris, Kobseff and Ogren voting YES, to approve the comment letter regarding the proposed 12,213.2± acre conservation easement west of Mugginsville, including additional language in the letter's last sentence and with the letter copied to Assemblymember Heather Hadwick and Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC).

Board and Staff Reports

Supervisor Haupt reported on his attendance at a meeting with Congressman Doug Lamalfa regarding water and fire issues and a meeting with California Department of Fish and Game representatives.

Closed Session - Conference with legal counsel, existing litigation pursuant to Government Code §54956.9(d)(1), three cases, conference with labor negotiators pursuant to Government Code §54957.6, commenced at 11:06 a.m., concluded at 11:58 a.m., with action taken.

Report On Closed Session

County Counsel Natalie E. Reed announced that closed session concluded at 11:58 a.m., with the following reportable action taken:

With regard to items 9A Conference with legal counsel, existing litigation pursuant to Government Code §54956.9(d)(1), name of case: National Prescription Opiate Litigation, United States District Court for Northern District of Ohio, Case No. 1-17-MD-2804, and 9B, Conference with legal counsel, existing litigation pursuant to Government Code §54956.9(d)(1), name of case: In Re: Purdue Pharma L.P., et al, Case No. 19-23649, pending in the United State Bankruptcy Court, Southern District of New York, Ms. Reed advised that it was moved by Supervisor Valenzuela, seconded by Supervisor Ogren and carried with a unanimous vote of YES to vote Yes on the Purdue Bankruptcy Plan and to authorize Counsel to execute all documents necessary to effect the County's receipt of settlement funds from the Purdue/Sackler Settlement, including releases and the Purdue/Sackler California-State Subdivision Agreement.

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

Attest:
Laura Bynum, County Clerk

Nancy Ogren, Chair

By: _____
Deputy