



February 20, 2026

Elizabeth Nielsen
Executive Director
Klamath Water Users Association
2312 S 6th St
Klamath Falls, OR 97601
Elizabeth@kwua.org

Subject: Tri-Counties Workgroup Acknowledges Benefits of Tule Lake Flow-Through

Dear Ms. Nielsen,

The Tri-Counties Workgroup writes on behalf of the Counties of Siskiyou and Modoc, California, and Klamath, Oregon to support the *Tule Lake Flow-Through: A Multi-Benefit Water Management and Ecological Improvement Approach for the Klamath Basin*. We recognize the basin-wide benefits of this water management approach for farming and ranching, sustaining wildlife and fisheries habitat, improving water quality, recharging the shallow aquifer, reducing infrastructure damage, and strengthening the resilience of the counties we represent.

Tule Lake flow-through maintains the continuous movement of water across the Klamath Basin, from Upper Klamath Lake through working lands and wetlands and ultimately back to the Klamath River. This approach supports agricultural productivity, strengthens water quality conditions, enhances habitat for migratory birds and native fish, and contributes to groundwater recharge.

Sustained water movement through existing infrastructure supports the economic stability of the region by improving reliability for agricultural producers, reducing dependence on groundwater supplies, and sustaining recreation and hunting opportunities that contribute to local economies. At the same time, maintaining healthy wetland conditions at Tule Lake and Lower Klamath National Wildlife Refuges improves water quality, reduces dust and related impacts, and supports fish and wildlife habitat.

The Tri-Counties have consistently supported and engaged in efforts aimed at resolving the long-standing water challenges in the Klamath Basin. We understand that meaningful resolution requires solutions with far-reaching and balanced benefits. The Tule Lake flow-through proposal represents a significant step in that direction. It is not singularly focused; rather, it thoughtfully balances the needs of agriculture, ecosystems, communities, and infrastructure that all depend on water in the Basin. For these reasons, we support continued implementation of the Tule Lake flow-through approach as a practical water management framework that benefits both the region's communities and its natural resources.



Sincerely,

Signed by:

Derrick DeGroot

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Derrick DeGroot, Vice Chair
Klamath County Commissioners

Signed by:

Geri Byrne

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Geri Byrne, District 5
Modoc County Board of Supervisors

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Michael N. Kobseff

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Michael N. Kobseff, District 3
Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors

Signed by:

Ned Coe

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Ned Coe, District I
Modoc County Board of Supervisors

Signed by:

Jess W. Harris

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Jess W. Harris, District 1
Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors