



COUNTY OF SISKIYOU

Board of Supervisors

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June 16, 2026

Grant Review Committee
Federal Railroad Administration
Office of Railroad Policy and Development
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Subject: Siskiyou County Support for Dunsmuir CRISI Grant

Dear Members of the Grant Review Committee,

The Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors submits this letter in in strong support of the City of Dunsmuir's application for the Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) Grant Program for the Mossbrae Falls Trail Project.

Nature tourism is an important part of Siskiyou County's local economy, and ensuring safe public access to Mossbrae Falls is critical to continuing to attract visitors to our region. Today, the only access to Mossbrae Falls, one of the most celebrated natural features in Northern California, requires walking approximately 0.6 miles along the active Union Pacific Railroad mainline through a narrow river canyon. This access is illegal and unsafe. Visitation to Mossbrae Falls has grown by 14.4% over the past three years, with Placer AI documenting approximately 18,900 visits in 2025 alone, demonstrating that public interest in this destination continues to rise. Two visitors have been seriously injured by trains on this corridor, in 2011 and 2019. In 2025, a woman died attempting to cross the Sacramento River to the Falls. The Mossbrae Falls Trail Project will construct a safe and legal 0.6-mile pedestrian trail and suspension bridge across the Sacramento River, permanently eliminating these hazardous conditions.

The CRISI Trespass Prevention Set-Aside, authorized under 49 U.S.C. § 22907(c)(11), was established by Congress to fund capital measures that prevent trespassing on railroad rights-of-way and reduce associated injuries and fatalities. The Mossbrae Falls Trail Project is a direct application of this authority.

The project will deliver:

- Safe pedestrian trail (0.6 miles) through the Sacramento River canyon, replacing the illegal Union Pacific trackway as the only access route to Mossbrae Falls.
- Pedestrian suspension bridge (150-175 ft) across the Sacramento River; a permanent, ADA-accessible river crossing with no railroad exposure.
- Safety fencing along the full Union Pacific right-of-way interface, physically deterring trespass at the source.
- Union Pacific Railroad engagement: UP participated in a formal project summit in July 2025 and has agreed to grant the necessary right-of-way for trail construction.

Siskiyou County is a rural, economically challenged community that qualifies for the CRISI Rural Set-Aside. The City of Dunsmuir has anchored its economic recovery strategy to its identity as the 'City of Waterfalls'. The Hedge Creek Falls trailhead, the starting point for this project, received approximately 39,800 documented visitors in 2024. Safe, legal access to Mossbrae Falls will generate sustained new tourism revenue for Dunsmuir's restaurants, lodging, retail, and outdoor recreation businesses, while creating construction-phase jobs in a county with chronically elevated unemployment.

The Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors strongly endorses the City of Dunsmuir's CRISI application for the Mossbrae Falls Trail Project. We are confident the City of Dunsmuir and its partners have the institutional capacity, community support, and project readiness to successfully implement this investment and deliver the project. We urge the Federal Railroad Administration to give this application the strongest possible consideration.

We are available to discuss our support for this project or provide any additional information at (530) 842-8005. Thank you for your consideration.

This letter was approved by the Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors on June 16, 2026, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

Sincerely,

Ray A. Haupt
Chair, Board of Supervisors