

State of California, County of Siskiyou

Board of Supervisors Minutes, February 28, 2023

The Honorable Board of Supervisors of Siskiyou County, California, met in special session this 28th day of February 2023; there being present Supervisors Michael N. Kobseff, Nancy Ogren, Ray A. Haupt and Ed Valenzuela, County Administrator Angela Davis, County Counsel Edward J. Kiernan, 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 Valenzuela. Pursuant to AB23, the Clerk announced that the Board is only meeting as the Board of Supervisors and Board members receive no additional compensation. Chair Valenzuela led in the salute to the flag of the United States of America. Chair Valenzuela announced that, although Supervisor Criss was not present for the meeting, he was listening to the meeting via ZOOM/teleconference phone and would not participate in the meeting.

Presentations from the Public

Participation in presentations from the public by various members of the public was provided via teleconference phone.

Caller Chrissie Reynolds spoke in favor of development of a property value assessment to demonstrate the decline in property values at Copco Lake due to the Klamath Dam removal efforts, for the benefit of property owners who could participate in the Klamath Mitigation Fund.

Caller Richard Marshall provided an overview of an upcoming taxpayer lawsuit and efforts being made at the State level to reclaim the dams.

Klamath River Country Estates (KRCE) Board member and resident Ann Noel appeared before the Board, sharing concerns regarding the negative impacts associated with heavy truck traffic speeding on Copco and Ager Roads and presented a one-page photo indicating roadway asphalt damage.

KRCE Owners Association representative Susan Wallace appeared before the Board and presented copy of a one-page letter to the Klamath River Renewal Corporation (KRRC). Ms. Wallace read the letter voicing concerns regarding the need for KRRC to address issues regarding a water well and bridge at the KRCE campground, into the record.

Participation in presentations from the public by various members of the public was provided via teleconference phone.

Caller Francis Gill spoke in support of the Road Department installing and/or updating guardrails at various locations along Copco and other area roads and shared concerns regarding the anticipated process for local residents to contact the Klamath Mitigation Fund.

County Administration - Presentation of an update re the Lower Klamath Dam Decommissioning Project. Presentation and discussion only.

Deputy County Administrator Elizabeth Nielsen appeared before the Board and provided a brief overview of the website and email address (lkinfo@co.siskiyou.ca.us) in order for members of the public to contact County staff with concerns, questions, etc. related to the Klamath Dam Removal Project (Project). Ms. Nielsen additionally provided an overview of recent and ongoing coordination efforts between County staff, Klamath River Renewal Corporation (KRRC) representatives and KRRC contractors/sub-contractors. (Camas LLC (Camas), McMillan Corporation, Kiewit Infrastructure West Co. (Kiewit) and Resource Environmental Services, LLC (RES)).

In addition, Ms. Nielsen summarized the process for KRRC and their contractors to obtain certain permits from the County and various State agencies related to the Lower Klamath Dam decommissioning project (i.e. demolition and construction work, labor camp setup/formation, hatchery relocation) as well as develop a signage figure to provide to the County. Ms. Nielsen advised that various County departments and the Air Pollution Control District (APCD) were reviewing the need for certain types of permits from KRRC and their contractors.

Continued...

County Administration – (continued)

Ms. Nielsen further advised that the County would monitor compliance and provide enforcement related to those permits, and advised that the KRRRC anticipates closing certain recreation facilities around the reservoirs earlier than previously planned in order to reduce traffic in the area during the summer.

Ms. Nielsen summarized information found on the Klamath Mitigation Fund's website 'Frequently Asked Questions' with regard to which property owners qualify to participate in the Fund, advising that the County plays no role in the Fund compensation process. Ms. Nielsen summarized the criteria required for affected property owner participation, including the need for water wells to be located within 1,000 feet of the Copco reservoir to qualify as affected. Ms. Nielsen advised that a future report on Sheriff and law enforcement activities related to the Project would be presented at a future meeting.

Brief discussion followed between members of the Board, Ms. Nielsen and County Administrator Angela Davis regarding a request to place a Project link on the County's website for better public access.

Supervisor Kobseff requested that County staff research whether KRRRC would be locating an office within Siskiyou County and research the possibility of tracking County Road Department and Sheriff's Office time spent in relation to the Project, for which the project proponent could be liable.

Supervisor Haupt advised of the need for a letter from the Board to the Klamath Mitigation Fund requesting that the Fund provide telephone contact information in addition to electronic/email access for members of the public and shared concerns that water wells near/along the Klamath River should be covered in addition to water wells within 1,000 feet of the Copco reservoir. Additionally, Supervisor Haupt requested information related to possible permits from the APCD to KRRRC and their contractors, requested an update with regard to the status of an Army Corps of Engineers permit and an update from Air Pollution to the APCD Board of Directors.

Supervisor Ogren shared concerns that property owners along the Klamath River should be included in those qualified to participate in the Klamath Mitigation Fund and requested information regarding the Merritt KRRRC subcontractor.

Further discussion followed regarding the possible APCD permits related to demolition/construction equipment, the anticipated need for development of new flood plain information along the river and the need to outreach to the Karuk Tribe regarding the ongoing special Klamath Dams meetings and invite them to participate.

County Administration - Discussion, direction and possible action re contract with CKM Environmental to perform Project Manager activities related to Klamath dam removal, in an amount not to exceed \$75,000, for the term February 10, 2023 through December 1, 2023. Approved.

Deputy County Administrator Elizabeth Nielsen appeared before the Board and provided an overview of the contract for Project Manager services, including the Request for Proposal (RFP) process. Ms. Nielsen introduced CKM Environmental representative Chelsea Murphy who was participating via teleconference phone.

Ms. Murphy introduced herself, providing a brief overview of CKM Environmental's history and qualifications and her plans to assist the County with monitoring the dam removal process.

Following discussion between members of the Board and Ms. Murphy regarding the anticipated process to outreach to property owners and members of the public affected by dam removal efforts, it was moved by Supervisor Haupt, seconded by Supervisor Kobseff and carried following a roll call vote with Supervisors Haupt, Kobseff, Ogren and Valenzuela voting YES and Supervisor Criss ABSENT to approve the contract and authorize the Chair to sign.

Siskiyou County Road Commissioner - Presentation re roads, bridges and encroachment topics as they relate to Klamath Dam removal activities. Presentation and discussion only.

Public Works Director Tom Deany appeared before the Board to provide an update regarding the status of roads located near the Klamath Dam Removal Project (Project), advising that a speed survey was conducted and that a 35 MPH road construction zone speed was set for Copco area roads. Continued...

Siskiyou County Road Commissioner – (continued)

Mr. Deany further advised that the 35 MPH speed limit would allow for law enforcement and possible citations for speeding along those roads. Mr. Deany provided an overview of the ongoing process to locate a new fish hatchery at Fall Creek and summarized plans to improve Crest Lane, sharing concerns that both project's plans/drawings needed modification in order to protect rights of way.

Mr. Deany voiced concerns that the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the County and Klamath River Renewal Corporation (KRRRC) was incomplete, including cost estimates/figures that have changed with the increasing cost of oil and deterioration of road conditions and roadway failure during the Project that were not addressed in the MOU. Mr. Deany advised of ongoing meetings with KRRRC to address these and other issues. Mr. Deany further advised of a proposal to change the timing of the County's planned restoration of roads to the end of the Project, with contractor Kiewit Infrastructure West Co. (Kiewit) to continue necessary maintenance/repairs as needed during the Project.

Discussion followed between members of the Board and Mr. Deany regarding support for the proposal to change the timing of the County's planned restoration of roads to the end of the Project, Public Works' efforts to outreach to KRRRC and Pacificorp regarding the modified speed limit near the Project and the possible need to address heavy truck traffic in the encroachment permit process.

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

Attest:
Laura Bynum, County Clerk

Ed Valenzuela, Chair

By: _____
Deputy