

State of California, County of Siskiyou

Board of Supervisors Minutes, March 26, 2024

The Honorable Board of Supervisors of Siskiyou County, California, met in special session this 26th day of March 2024; there being present Supervisors Brandon Criss, 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 Kobseff. Pursuant to AB23, the Clerk announced that the Board members receive no additional compensation for sitting as members of the Board of Supervisors only. Supervisor Criss led in the salute to the flag of the United States of America.

Presentations from the Public

Chair Kobseff recognized Congressman Doug LaMalfa's district representative Erin Ryan who was present in the audience.

Audience member Sheila Meamber appeared before the Board, presenting and summarizing a two-page letter of concerns, advising that many Siskiyou County citizens voted against dam removal in a 2010 advisory measure. Ms. Meamber voiced concerns regarding the potential negative impacts associated with release of the sediment behind the dams slated for removal.

Hornbrook resident Toni Holley appeared before the Board, sharing concerns regarding the Klamath River Renewal Corporation's (KRRC's) responsibility for only 15 miles of the Klamath River downstream of Irongate Dam and the potential for approximately 240 miles of river to be ignored. Ms. Holley additionally shared concerns regarding the negative impacts associated with the sediment that was released from behind the dams. Ms. Holley submitted a one-page copy of receipts for private water quality sampling/testing and analysis.

Local resident Beatrice Lieckens appeared before the Board, voicing concerns regarding the potential negative impacts associated with the water/sediment released from behind the dams.

Local resident Sara Jackson appeared before the Board, voicing concerns regarding the negative impacts associated with the sediment/sludge released into the Klamath River during dam removal activities.

Klamath River Country Estates (KRCE) Owners Association Director Ann Noel appeared before the Board, presenting and summarizing a two-page letter in support of the proposed emergency declaration. In addition, Ms. Noel summarized KRCEOA concerns regarding the condition of the Klamath River and potential negative impacts to the Association and their residents and guests.

KRCEOA member Susan Wallace appeared before the Board, speaking in support of the proposed emergency declaration and sharing concerns regarding the potential for negative impacts to KRCE members, residents and guests.

Local fishing guide Albert Kutzkey appeared before the Board, speaking in support of the proposed emergency proclamation related to Klamath River water quality and conditions.

Copco resident Linda Ebert appeared before the Board, speaking in support of the proposed emergency proclamation related to Klamath River water quality and conditions and sharing concerns regarding the impacts of the sediment remaining on the former Irongate and Copco lakebeds. Ms. Ebert submitted a photo and copy of a San Francisco Chronicle news article, sharing concerns that the newspaper photo did not show the devastation left behind in the former Copco lake.

Hornbrook resident Susan Miller appeared before the Board, presenting and summarizing a one-page letter of concerns regarding the negative impacts associated with the release of water from behind the dams and advising that the sediment remaining at the former reservoir sites could be consider Superfund sites. Ms. Miller additional spoke in support of the proposed emergency declaration.

Continued...

Presentations from the Public – (continued)

Local resident William Simpson appeared before the Board, sharing concerns regarding the condition of the roads that have been impacted by heavy construction truck traffic, the potential that water to fight wildfire will not be available with the release of water from behind the dams and lack of response to letters and inquiries made to the KRRC.

Copco resident Chrissie Reynolds appeared before the Board, thanking the Board and County Air Pollution department for installing air quality monitors at four locations along Copco reservoir. Ms. Reynolds voiced concerns regarding the negative impacts associated with release of water from behind the dams and the related unintended consequences of the project.

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

Caller Emilie Simmons with R-Ranch, voiced concerns regarding the potential for negative impacts to R-Ranch members, residents and guests.

Caller Becky Davis spoke in support of the proposed emergency declaration and voiced concerns regarding potential impacts associated with the condition of the Copco and Irongate reservoir areas following dam removal activities.

Caller Loy Beardsmore voiced concerns regarding the negative impacts from dam removal activities and shared support for the proposed emergency declaration.

Caller Karuk Tribe Natural Resource Advocate Craig Tucker spoke in opposition to the proposed emergency declaration, advising that the conditions in the Klamath River were improving daily.

Caller Holly Hansard shared concerns regarding negative impacts from dam removal activities and spoke in support of the proposed emergency declaration.

Caller Regina Chichizola spoke in opposition to the proposed emergency declaration, advising of the potential for negative impacts to commercial and recreational fishing industry should the declaration be approved. Ms. Chichizola additionally shared concerns that toxic algae blooms in the reservoirs adversely impacted the conditions in the river and the fish populations.

Caller Elizabeth Peterson spoke in support of the proposed emergency declaration and shared concerns regarding potential negative impacts to groundwater wells and from the sediment released into the river.

Caller Allen Anderson shared concerns regarding the potential negative impacts from the sediment released into the river and remaining in the reservoir areas to local birds and wildlife.

Caller Amber Jameson spoke in opposition to the proposed emergency declaration, advising of the potential for negative impacts to local river guide businesses.

Caller Patty Vinikow voiced concerns regarding the negative impacts associated with the sediment remaining in the reservoir areas and potential for toxic substances to be released when the sediment dries. Ms. Vinikow spoke in support of the proposed emergency declaration.

Siskiyou County Water Users Association President Richard Marshall appeared before the Board, presenting and summarizing a one-page letter stating support for the proposed emergency declaration.

Audience member Charlotte Kim Cowan appeared before the Board, speaking in support of the proposed emergency declaration.

Audience member Patty Jeter appeared before the Board, presenting and summarizing a two-page letter listing other areas in the United States impacted by water quality disasters. Ms. Jeter spoke in support of the proposed emergency declaration.

Audience member Greg Jeter appeared before the Board, presenting and summarizing a three-page letter expressing the need to protect citizens from the negative impacts of the dam removal project. Mr. Jeter spoke in support of the proposed emergency declaration.

Continued...

Presentations from the Public – (continued)

Copco resident Henry Hampton appeared before the Board, voicing concerns regarding the impacts associated with the sediment remaining behind the dams following release of the reservoir water.

Audience member and Shasta Indian Richard Scott appeared before the Board, speaking in support the project to remove the dams on the Klamath River.

County Road Commissioner/County Administration - Presentation of an update re Copco Road, public safety during the 2024 Lower Klamath Dams decommissioning activities and a Notice of Dispute and proposed second amendment to the Roads and Bridges Memorandum of Understanding submitted to the County by the Klamath River Renewal Corporation regarding repairs at Mile Post 13. Presentation and discussion only.

Chair Kobseff recognized Senator Brian Dahle's representative Breydon Coma who was present in the audience.

Public Works Director/Road Commissioner Tom Deany appeared before the Board, advising that Public Works' road crews would be working to repair/maintain the roads in/around Copco reservoir for one week each month. Mr. Deany shared concerns regarding need to transport 'grindings' used for road repair from other districts in the County in order to repair the Copco roads and expressed concerns regarding the Department's staffing level when a crew is scheduled at Copco for the week. Mr. Deany provided an update regarding the recent process for issuing ultra-heavy load permits and summarized the anticipated timeframe for repairing the road in front of the Fall Creek Hatchery.

Discussion followed between members of the Board and Mr. Deany regarding the Department's process for tracking costs associated with the road repair efforts, the need to report traffic not obeying posted speed limits in the area to the California Highway Patrol (CHP), anticipated minimal impacts to the road condition from trucks that would be used to haul and release fish smolts into the Klamath River, a request for the road ratings related to the road in/around Copco and Irongate, the need to outreach to the CHP regarding the road conditions and traffic (speed) concerns, the condition/status of the bridge at Copco, the possible impact of the current road conditions with regard to access by emergency vehicles, the need to research possible access (emergency ingress/egress) issues related to fences/gates located on private property.

Ms. Nielsen provided an overview of a dispute notice that the County received from the Klamath River Renewal Corporation (KRRC) with regard to road sloughing repairs made at Mile Post 13 (Copco Road) at an approximate cost of \$277,788 which KRRC did not agree that the dam removal project was the sole reason for the road sloughing issue. Ms. Nielsen advised that the KRRC requested the costs be debited from the post-dam removal repair fund (to be used by the County at a later date to mitigate possible future issues). Ms. Nielsen further advised that efforts were being made by the firm of Nossaman LLP with regard to the dispute notice and that additional information would be forthcoming.

Supervisor Haupt voiced concerns and advocated for full reimbursement from KRRC to the County for the work/repairs performed at Mile Post 13.

Public Requests - CKM Environmental - Discussion and possible direction re presentation of an update regarding the Lower Klamath Dam Decommissioning Project, including current/upcoming activities, use of roads and bridges by Project contractors, County permitting, water quality, coordination with the Klamath River Renewal Corporation and communication with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. Presentation and discussion only.

CKM Environmental Project Manager Chelsea Murphy appeared before the Board, providing an update concerning various dam removal project activities and advising that the March 15, 2024 deadline for sediment removal in the reservoir footprints was extended to April 15, 2024 by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). Ms. Murphy briefly summarized the efforts being made to address water quality issues, including development of the water quality Memorandum included as background information in the proposed emergency declaration agenda item. Ms. Murphy advised of engaging with FERC in an informal fashion and summarized various topics that had been discussed.

Continued...

Public Requests - CKM Environmental – (continued)

Ms. Murphy additionally advised that formal action may be needed by FERC in order to address the County's concerns which would be in the form of a formal letter from the County. Ms. Murphy advised that the letter would be entered into the FERC Docket which would open an investigation.

Supervisor Ogren requested development of a formal letter to FERC outlining the County's concerns and possible solutions.

Brief discussion followed between members of the Board, Ms. Murphy and Deputy County Clerk Wendy Winningham regarding the time needed to draft the letter, the short timeframe in which to submit the letter to the April 2, 2024 agenda and the need to bring the letter back before the Board on April 16, 2024.

Further discussion followed regarding the need for information regarding the status of the Klamath Mitigation Fund funding (once mitigation claims have been finalized), the need to request from FERC to disclose the dam safety officer (possible Freedom of information Act request) and Ms. Murphy's plan to further discuss potential impacts from the condition of fish populations in the Klamath River to Shasta and Scott Valley irrigators.

Ms. Murphy addressed various comments from the public comment period earlier in the meeting with regard to large scale sediment removal that is not a part of the dam removal project plan, the need to further research the definition of short- and long-term (concerning a stable river condition), air quality monitoring, water quality monitoring, potential impacts of irrigating from the river and fences/gates on private property.

Additional discussion followed regarding efforts to communicate with the State Water Board, the seeding and revegetation efforts being made to minimize dust blowing from the reservoir sediment as it dries, the need to reach out to Calfire regarding the locations and possible 'filling in' of wildfire fighting dipping pools in the river, the need for information regarding the source of drinking water for those Copco groundwater wells that have dried up and Ms. Murphy's attempts to build relationships with various agencies associated with the dam removal project.

Following County Counsel Natalie E. Reed's recommendation that the Board designate two Board members to work with Ms. Murphy on drafting the letter to FERC, Supervisors Haupt and Criss were selected.

Community Development Director Rick Dean briefly summarized a minor typographical error in the Memorandum detailing the water quality sampling results for heavy metals (background information in the proposed emergency declaration agenda item).

Public Requests - Klamath River Renewal Corporation - Presentation of an update re Klamath Dam removal activities, coordination with the public and the County and activities related to river conditions and residential wells. Presentation and discussion only.

Klamath River Renewal Corporation (KRRC) Chief Executive Officer Mark Bransom appeared before the Board and presented a powerpoint update regarding the Lower Klamath River Dams Project. Mr. Bransom provided a brief overview of the four dams to be removed and the efforts being made to perform test blasting at the Copco No. 1 site in order to remove the dam's structure from the top down. Mr. Bransom summarized the anticipated dust control measures developed to minimize adverse impacts to area residents and provided an overview of the Copco Reservoir drawdown strategy, including the anticipated timing to remove earthen section of the dam structure. Mr. Bransom advised that final approval to remove the JC Boyle and Irongate dams would be made to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC).

Continuing the powerpoint, Mr. Bransom summarized the status of the sediment released into the Klamath River, including efforts being made to monitor and test the sediment. Mr. Bransom advised that both Federal and State agencies determined that the sediment was safe to release and send downstream, summarizing the makeup of the sediment which was found to be primarily dead algae, fine silts and sand/gravel. Mr. Bransom additionally advised that test data was being sent to regulators on a regular basis and that the drinking water system for the Caltrans Collier Rest Stop had been mitigated in order to provide clean drinking water to the facility (potable water being transported from a company in Redding CA).

Continued...

Public Requests - Klamath River Renewal Corporation – (continued)

Mr. Bransom continued the powerpoint, including a screenshot from the California Water Board website that indicated that metals in the reservoir sediment are not expected to leach into groundwater wells. Mr. Bransom advised that the KRRC volunteered to perform water quality sampling and testing in the same manner that the County performed sampling/testing (same six locations, same laboratory, same metals list), that the range of parameters would be expanded and the protocols would be shared with the County and the Water Board prior to implementation. Mr. Bransom additionally advised that the County would be provided data and a narrative report within one week of receiving the report from the third party analyst. Mr. Bransom summarized Phase 1 of the revegetation process, including the status of live plants, acorns and seeds already planted.

Klamath River resident Jim Leach appeared before the Board, voicing concerns regarding the potential that pulsing flows into the Klamath River would not sufficiently move the sediment out of the system.

Copco resident William Simpson appeared before the Board, voicing concerns regarding the potential for the sediment toxins to be bio-accumulative and negatively impact human and wildlife health and safety.

Hornbrook resident Lindsay Rhea appeared before the Board, sharing concerns regarding the potential for groundwater wells to be impacted by the sediment and heavy metals.

Montague resident Ann James appeared before the Board, sharing concerns regarding the legality of the dam removal project and potential negative impacts to the R Ranch owners and guests.

Audience member Greg Jeter appeared before the Board, voicing concerns regarding the loss of wildlife during the dam removal and water release activities.

Audience member Holly Hansard appeared before the Board, sharing concerns regarding insufficient mitigation efforts being made to protect the local communities.

Mr. Bransom addressed various comments made regarding the anticipated pulse flow process managed by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), possible future impacts of the river flow and sediment on local groundwater wells and loss of wildlife.

Montague resident Sara Jackson appeared before the Board, requesting that the KRRC provide water quality heavy metal sampling/testing information to the public.

Copco resident Chrissie Reynolds appeared before the Board, voicing concerns regarding the loss of native and non-native fish, wildlife and potential for the sediment remaining in the former reservoir to create air quality concerns as the sediment dries.

Participation in this item by various members of the public was provided via ZOOM/teleconference phone.

Caller Emilie Simmons with R-Ranch, voiced concerns regarding the need for mitigation assistance with removing sediment at the R-Ranch property and concerns regarding the negative impacts associated with the river's condition on R-Ranch members and guests.

Caller Loy Beardsmore shared concerns regarding the potential for deep pools of water for fighting wildfires to be filled with sediment and expressed the need for an alternative plan to access water. Ms. Beardsmore additionally voiced concerns regarding the potential impacts from dust from the dried sediment and the blasting activities and requested a commitment from KRRC to drill new wells if necessary.

Caller and downriver resident Conrad Fisher spoke in support of the benefits associated with the dam removal project that outweigh the damages.

Mr. Bransom addressed the various comments made regarding the anticipated plan for heavy metal testing, the loss of wildlife due to the river's condition, the R-Ranch sediment issue, efforts being made to discuss dipping pool data with Calfire and the performance measures in the KRRC's permits with regard to dust mitigation.

Continued...

Public Requests - Klamath River Renewal Corporation – (continued)

Discussion followed between Supervisor Criss and Mr. Bransom regarding the anticipated process to irrigate the reservoir footprint where it was planted/seeded (rather than the entire area for dust mitigation), and the efforts being made to address a long-term solution to provide water and mitigate groundwater wells that have dried up.

In response to Supervisor Kobseff, Mr. Bransom advised that the temporary water was being sourced from either Castella or the City of Yreka water supply.

Discussion followed between Supervisor Haupt and Mr. Bransom regarding the anticipated timeframe for the blasting operations to take place (possibly as early as 7am, six days a week, not late night), the public notification process related to the blasting operations, a request that KRRC to reach out to Office of Emergency Services (OES) for notification assistance, the anticipated process to remediate the sediment affecting deep pools in the river and the water flow and current through the Irongate bypass tunnel.

Discussion followed between Supervisor Valenzuela and Mr. Bransom regarding concerns that additional groundwater wells may go dry and the KRRC's monitoring of local wells.

Discussion followed between Supervisor Ogren and Mr. Bransom regarding the temporary potable water deliveries being made to the Caltrans Collier Rest Stop, the contract between Caltrans and KRRC expiring in May 2024 and the possible need to extend the contract due to river water conditions.

Discussion followed between Supervisor Kobseff and Mr. Bransom regarding KRRC's proposed additional parameters for sampling/testing of the river water quality.

Copco resident Phil Reynold appeared before the Board, sharing concerns regarding the lack of signage notifying drivers of the construction zone, the blasting operations notification letter that arrived after blasting occurred and the potential for additional groundwater well impacts as summer residents return to the area.

Audience member Ann Noel requested information regarding the Project co-licensees referred to earlier.

Mr. Bransom advised that he would follow up with regard to construction signage on Copco Road and that signage was not present on Ager Beswick Road. Mr. Bransom additionally advised that the Project co-licensees were KRRC, and the states of California and Oregon.

In response to Supervisor Kobseff, Mr. Bransom provided an overview of the anticipated processes and timeframe to remove the JC Boyle dam structure (earth and concrete dam).

Public Requests - California Department of Fish and Wildlife/County Administration - Presentation of an update re the Board of Supervisors' requests for assurances for water users following dam removal activities and an update re various items related to the Lower Klamath Dams Decommissioning Project, i.e. Parcel B lands, fish hatchery and wildlife and fisheries mortality resulting from dam removal activities. Presentation and discussion only.

California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) representative Michael Harris appeared before the Board and provided an update regarding the Fall Creek Hatchery, including various salmon and coho statistics (i.e. fish being produced, anticipated release dates, etc.). Mr. Harris provided an overview of CDFW's efforts to release 83,000 salmon fry into Fall Creek that experienced a high mortality rate as they traveled through the Irongate bypass tunnel and advised of the efforts being made to determine the best time to release fall Chinook into the system. Mr. Harris addressed the County's request for assurances from CDFW that a potential decrease in salmonid population would not be attributed to water users (i.e. irrigators), advising that the CDFW supports agriculture and efforts to increase the salmonid population. Mr. Harris additionally advised that beneficial projects (to increase fish populations) are supported through CDFW's grant program and that CDFW lacks the ability to provide the requested assurances through a Memorandum of Understanding process.

Supervisor Kobseff shared concerns that the Shasta and Scott River systems should not be liable or held accountable for decreases in fish populations due to the river conditions following dam removal activities.

Mr. Harris provided an update regarding wildlife surveys performed around Copco and Irongate reservoir areas, advising that one deer mortality was reported.

Continued...

Public Requests - California Department of Fish and Wildlife/County Administration – *(continued)*

Discussion followed between Supervisor Kobseff and Mr. Harris regarding a report of a beaver that had died and whether dam removal activities could be attributed.

Mr. Harris addressed earlier comments with regard to the definition of short-term with regard to the Project, the water year type that would determine how sediment flushing proceeds, the Fish Management Plan that directs fish releases, the impact of the water releases on non-native fish populations and the benefits associated with removing the reservoirs (i.e. increase in the deer wintering range, improved deer migration routes).

Copco resident William Simpson appeared before the Board, voicing concerns that the 83,000 fry released into the river that died were not impacted by fish gas bubble disease but by the toxins in the river water.

Mr. Harris responded that the fish were impacted by pressure induced injury which caused the mortality.

In response to Supervisor Criss, Mr. Harris advised that he would continue to research historic fish rearing statistics from the original Fall Creek Hatchery from approximately 1917.

Discussion followed between Supervisor Criss and Mr. Harris regarding CDFW's management of landowner water rights, concerns regarding possible loss of water rights due to the current status of sediment in the river and possible fish mortality.

In response to Supervisor Ogren, Mr. Harris advised that he would follow up regarding her request for a report concerning the recent fish release and subsequent mortality.

Supervisor Valenzuela suggested CDFW make efforts to dispel rumors surrounding the ongoing Project for benefit of the public and local citizens.

In response to Supervisor Haupt, Mr. Harris provided the definition of 'escapement' with regard to the number of fish that return to their spawning grounds.

Discussion followed between Supervisor Haupt and Mr. Harris regarding the timing related to planned fish releases, concerns that irrigators in the Shasta and Scott Valleys may be held responsible for possible fish mortality in the Klamath system and the CDFW's efforts to provide grant funding for projects that would benefit and increase fish rearing habitat.

Discussion followed between Supervisor Haupt and Mr. Harris regarding CDFW's process for determining increases/decreases in salmonids returning to the Klamath system and the need to invite a fish biologist to a staff meeting to provide additional information.

County Administration - Discussion, direction and possible action re Resolution proclaiming a local emergency and requesting that the Governor proclaim a State of Emergency (impacts resulting from Lower Klamath Dam removal). (Continued from March 19, 2024) Resolution 24-51 adopted.

Deputy County Administrator Elizabeth Nielsen appeared before the Board and provided an overview of the Resolution declaring a local emergency that was continued from March 19, 2024. Ms. Nielsen advised that the Resolution was modified to include additional paragraphs referring to requests for the State to perform monthly Klamath River and local groundwater well water quality sampling/testing as well as air quality monitoring on the Lower Klamath Dam Removal Project location during the duration of the Project. Ms. Nielsen advised that a California Water Quality Control Board representative and the County's Chief Air Pollution Control Officer were available to answer questions.

Participation in this item by various members of the public was provided via ZOOM/teleconference phone.

Caller Matt St. John Environmental Program Manager with the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (NCRWQCB) spoke in support of the Project as vital to restoration and benefiting wildlife and water quality. Mr. St. John advised that environmental analysis anticipated that there would be short-term impacts due to the release of sediment that contains organic and inorganic chemicals and that the impacts were anticipated to be short lived and decreasing over time. Mr. St. John shared concerns regarding the County's single sampling/testing done during high sediment levels and the comparison to drinking water standards (no one should be drinking surface water without testing).
Continued...

County Administration – (continued)

Mr. St. John additionally advised that the Water Board did not believe that groundwater well quality would be impacted by the sediment and that adverse health impacts associated with recreational activities (i.e. swimming in the river) would be negligible. Mr. St. John advised that the Water Board would continue to coordinate with County staff and review if additional monitoring is needed or warranted.

Office of Emergency Services Director Bryan Schenone appeared before the Board and briefly summarized the additional paragraphs in the draft emergency proclamation Resolution.

In response to Supervisor Ogren, Mr. Schenone summarized the reimbursement (claim) process related to emergency declarations with regard to a government entity (public assistance), advising that individual assistance is not available unless a Federal emergency is declared.

In response to Supervisor Criss with regard to groundwater well water quality, Mr. St. John advised that the Water Board was unable to pay for private groundwater well monitoring although would be willing to review water quality test results provided by property owners. In addition, Mr. St. John advised that water quality monitoring for municipal wells (public water services) differed from that for private wells.

Agricultural Commissioner and Air Pollution Control Officer Jim Smith advised that air quality monitors were installed in the Copco area and provided photos of the air quality monitors and the type of information those monitors would provide. In addition, Mr. Smith advised that Environmental Beta Attenuation Mass (E-BAM) and E-BAM PLUS monitors would collect smaller particulate samples that could be later tested. Mr. Smith voiced concerns regarding the potential costs associated with purchasing and implementing those monitors. Mr. Smith requested Board input with regard to the E-BAM monitors and advised that the County's Air Pollution Control District could also consider the air quality issue at a future meeting. As the County's Agricultural Commissioner, Mr. Smith shared concerns that potentially 50% of the seeding and planting efforts at the Copco reservoir footprint could take hold and grow.

Supervisor Valenzuela spoke in support of placing air quality monitors, similar to those already in place in Yreka and South County, advising of the need for data to benefit decision making.

Following brief discussion between members of the Board and Mr. Smith regarding the benefits associated with creating air quality baseline prior for wildfire season, it was the consensus of the Board that the better quality air monitors be brought before the Board for consideration.

Community Development Department Director Rick Dean appeared before the Board, advising that the water quality Memorandum, included as background information, contained a typographical error on pages 11 and 12. Mr. Dean advised that Environmental Health's sampling/testing found elevated levels of arsenic, lead and iron and summarized the negative impacts associated with the mobilization of aluminum in water.

Audience member Angelina Cook with California Sportfishing Protection Alliance appeared before the Board, spoke in opposition to the proposed emergency declaration and spoke in support of the efforts being made to benefit salmon recovery. Ms. Cook requested patience as the river conditions improve.

Copco resident William Simpson appeared before the Board, speaking in support of the proposed emergency proclamation and sharing concerns regarding the potential for further environmental impacts due to the sediment remaining in the reservoir footprint.

Copco resident Chrissie Reynolds appeared before the Board, voicing concerns regarding the potential negative air quality impacts associated with the sediment remaining in the reservoir footprint as it dries.

Local resident Holly Hansard appeared before the Board, speaking in support of the proposed emergency declaration and sharing concerns regarding the negative environmental impacts.

Participation in this item by various members of the public was provided via ZOOM/teleconference phone.

Callers Amber Jameson and Scott Rhine spoke in opposition to the proposed emergency declaration and shared concerns regarding potential negative impacts of the declaration to the local river rafting industry.

Continued...

County Administration – (continued)

Caller Regina Chichisola spoke in opposition to the proposed emergency declaration and shared concerns regarding the potential negative impacts of the declaration to downriver communities.

Montague resident Sara Jackson appeared before the Board, voicing concerns regarding the negative impacts of the sediment release and river conditions on local Klamath River fishing guide businesses and families.

Irongate resident Charlene Waldon appeared before the Board, sharing concerns regarding the condition of the river due to the sediment release.

Deputy County Clerk Wendy Winningham provided an overview of correspondence the Clerk’s Office received related to this item from Jerry Bacigalupi, Pete Marino, Sheila and Don Meamber and Scott Harding.

Discussion followed between members of the Board, Ms. Nielsen and Mr. Dean regarding the lack of toxic cyano-bacteria(caused by algae blooms) found in Irongate and Copco lakes which did not warrant any emergency declarations and the need for further research into PacifCorp’s water quality permit for possible monitoring information.

In response to Supervisor Haupt, County Counsel Natalie E. Reed advised that the emergency declaration was drafted to seek assistance from the State and not directed at nor anticipated to impact specific businesses.

In response, Mr. Schenone advised that there were no specific closures written into the draft emergency proclamation.

Supervisor Haupt voiced concerns regarding the need to monitor groundwater wells in order for the County to stay abreast of possible water quality issues that could arise.

Supervisor Valenzuela advised that he did not support the emergency declaration at this time due to the lack of data to support the request.

Supervisor Ogren spoke in support of the emergency declaration as a means to gather information and to communicate with the State and agencies.

Supervisor Kobseff spoke in support of the emergency proclamation to ask for State assistance with monitoring and to protect local citizens.

Supervisor Criss spoke in support of the of efforts to protect local citizens.

It was moved by Supervisor Haupt and seconded by Supervisor Criss to approve to the proclamation of a local state of emergency related to impacts to Klamath River water quality and potential impacts to air quality resulting from Lower Klamath Dam Removal activities with the Chair to sign the proclamation. The motion to adopt Resolution 24-51 carried, following a roll call vote with Supervisors Haupt, Criss, Ogren and Kobseff voting YES and Supervisor Valenzuela voting NO.

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

Attest:
Laura Bynum, County Clerk

Michael N. Kobseff, Chair

By: _____
Deputy