

State of California, County of Siskiyou

Board of Supervisors Minutes, February 18, 2025

The Honorable Board of Supervisors of Siskiyou County, California, met in regular session this 18th day of February 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 and County Service Area 3. Supervisor Valenzuela led in the salute to the flag of the United States of America.

Off Agency Item – County Counsel – Conference with legal counsel pursuant to Government Code §54956.9(d)(1), name of case: Chan Lor v. County of Siskiyou, et al., United States district Court, Eastern District of California, Case No. 2:24-CV-00274. Item added to the closed session agenda.

County Counsel Natalie E. Reed requested consideration of an urgency, off-agenda item concerning the current litigation as Board direction and/or authorization was needed prior to the next regular Board meeting on March 4, 2025.

It was moved by Supervisor Kobseff, seconded by Supervisor Valenzuela and carried, following a roll call vote with Supervisors Valenzuela, Haupt, Harris, Ogren and Kobseff voting YES, to add an item not on the posted agenda regarding Conference with legal counsel pursuant to Government Code §54956.9(d)(1), name of case: Chan Lor v. County of Siskiyou, et al., United States District Court, Eastern District of California, Case No. 2:24-CV-00274.

Closed Session - Personnel pursuant to Government Code §54957(b)(1): Discipline, dismissal or release of a public employee and Conference with legal counsel pursuant to Government Code §54956.9(d)(1), name of case: Chan Lor v. County of Siskiyou, et al., United States District Court, Eastern District of California, Case No. 2:24-CV-00274, commenced at 8:32 a.m., concluded at 9:00 a.m., with action taken.

Report on Closed Session

With regard to item 4A, Personnel pursuant to Government Code §54957(b)(1): Discipline, dismissal or release of a public employee, County Administrator Angela Davis advised that, in the matter of Public Employee Discipline/Dismissal/Release, the Board of Supervisors, serving as the Appeal Board to hear a Deputy Sheriff's appeal of discipline under Section 8.5 of the Siskiyou County Personnel Policies, and after having conducted the appeal hearing on December 19 and 20, 2024, issues the following reportable action: By a vote of 4/0, the Board of Supervisors orders that the termination of the Deputy Sheriff's employment is affirmed. Supervisor Harris did not participate in hearing the appeal or making the final decision by the Board.

County Counsel Natalie E. Reed advised that the Board met in closed session regarding item 4A: Personnel pursuant to Government Code §54957(b)(1): Discipline, dismissal or release of a public employee, from 8:32 a.m. to 8:37 a.m. In addition, Ms. Reed advised that the Board met in closed session regarding item 4E, Conference with legal counsel pursuant to Government Code §54956.9(d)(1), name of case: Ger Chong Ze Chang, et al., v. County of Siskiyou, et al., United States District Court, Eastern District of California, Sacramento Division, Case No. 2:24-CV-00274 and the added off-agenda item, Conference with legal counsel pursuant to Government Code §54956.9(d)(1), name of case: Chan Lor v. County of Siskiyou, et al., United States District Court, Eastern District of California, Case No. 2:24-CV-00274, from 8:37 a.m. to 9:00 a.m., with no reportable action taken.

Ms. Reed further advised that the remainder of the closed session items would be taken up at the end of the regular agenda.

Invocation - Siskiyou County Sheriff Chaplain Jim Howe provided an invocation.

Presentations from the Public

Health and Human Services Agency Director Sarah Collard appeared before the Board, advising that a commitment letter to Danco Communities with regard to the Department committing to be Lead Service Provider for the City of Yreka's Homekey Plus housing project, was not on the current agenda, although the Department was working to modify the letter to be brought back before the Board in March.

Audience member Nicole East appeared before the Board, speaking in support of the Homekeep (Homekey+) housing project and the associated benefits for unhoused persons. Ms. East additionally advised of others who signed a digital petition in support of the project.

Audience member Jonathan East appeared before the Board, speaking in support of the Homekeep (Homekey+) housing project and the associated benefits for unhoused persons.

Supervisor Kobseff advised that the Homekey+ project was not being considered by the Board, only a commitment letter associated with the project had been presented for consideration.

Consent Agenda – Approved.

At Supervisor Kobseff's request, item 7F, Health and Human Services – Behavioral Health Division's request to ratify Mental Health Student Services Act Universal Screening grant application to the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission, was pulled from the consent agenda for discussion.

It was moved by Supervisor Kobseff, seconded by Supervisor Harris and carried, following a roll call vote with Supervisors Valenzuela, Haupt, Harris, Ogren and Kobseff voting YES, that the following consent agenda is approved, and the Chair and/or clerk authorized to execute/record any necessary documents:

Community Development

Approve the contract between the Siskiyou County Community Development Department and IC Systems Inc. to provide debt collection services to the department.

County Administration

Authorize Angela Davis to negotiate the potential sale of APN 062-141-170 (Sharps and Fairlane Roads).

County Administration

Ratify the letter to the California Fish and Game Commission regarding Wildlife Resources Committee Agenda Item 17(B): Committee and Department Reports, expressing Siskiyou County's stance regarding a motion passed on January 15.

County Administration

Approve the second addendum to the contract with PACE Engineering, authorize Chair to execute the addendum, and authorization for the Auditor to establish budgets as necessary.

District Attorney

Approve contract between Siskiyou County District Attorney and Thomson Reuters for library services for the term of March 1, 2025, through February 28, 2030, with compensation as Rate .01.

Health and Human Services - Behavioral Health Division

Ratify and approve the grant proposal with Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission and authorize the Chair to sign the Standard Agreement Form STD 213, and authorize the Auditor to establish budget appropriations and set expenditures per the grant.

General Services – Airports

Approve the contract between Siskiyou County General Services - Airports and Tullis, Inc. and authorize the auditor to establish budget.

Continued...

Consent Agenda – (continued)

General Services – Sanitation

Approve the contract with Paradigm Software to manage the transactional and payment operations for both the Oberlin Road and Black Butte Transfer Stations.

Local Child Care Planning Council

Approve Annual Certification Statement Regarding Composition of LPC Membership.

Transfer of Funds - Court Appointed Counsel - \$341,220. Resolution 25-20 adopted.

Transfer of Funds - District Attorney - \$26,000. Resolution 25-21 adopted.

Transfer of Funds - Emergency Services - \$20,786. Resolution 25-22 adopted.

Transfer of Funds - Probation - \$71,000. Resolution 25-23 adopted.

Transfer of Funds - Risk Management - Unemployment - \$67,500. Resolution 25-24 adopted.

Transfer of Funds - Road Department - \$(154,920). Resolution 25-25 adopted.

Transfer of Funds - Sheriff - \$80,100. Resolution 25-26 adopted.

Transfer of Funds - Health and Human Services - \$1,600. Resolution 25-27 adopted.

Health and Human Services - Behavioral Health Division - Approve request to ratify Mental Health Student Services Act Universal Screening grant application to the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission, and approve associated agreement in an amount not to exceed \$800,000, for a term ending December 31, 2027. Approved.

This item was pulled from the consent agenda at Supervisor Kobseff's request. Supervisor Kobseff requested information regarding screening surveys that would be part of the grant's scope of work.

Health and Human Services Agency Director Sarah Collard, Superintendent of Schools Allan Carver and Associate Superintendent Mike Matheson appeared before the Board.

Discussion followed between Supervisor Kobseff and those present regarding the processes associated with student screening surveys and participation and collaboration with students and their parents.

It was moved by Supervisor Kobseff, seconded by Supervisor Valenzuela and carried, following a roll call vote with Supervisors Valenzuela, Haupt, Harris, Ogren and Kobseff voting YES, to ratify and approve the grant proposal with Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission and authorize the Chair to sign the Standard Agreement Form STD 213, and authorize the Auditor to establish budget appropriations and set expenditures per the grant.

Office of Emergency Services - Discussion, direction and possible action re request to ratify Proclamation of Local Emergency by the Director of Emergency Services due to impacts from the Early 2025 Atmospheric River and early February storm cycle that brought significant weather impacts throughout Siskiyou County. Emergency Proclamation confirmed and ratified.

Office of Emergency Services Director Bryan Schenone appeared before the Board and provided an overview of the request, including damages seen within the County from the storm.

It was moved by Supervisor Haupt, seconded by Supervisor Kobseff and carried, following a roll call vote with Supervisors Valenzuela, Haupt, Harris, Ogren and Kobseff voting YES to confirm and ratify the Proclamation of Local Emergency by the Director of Emergency Services due to impacts from the Early 2025 Atmospheric River; the early February storm cycle has brought a significant weather impact throughout Siskiyou County.

Appointments – County Clerk - Appointment of one member to the unscheduled vacancy on the Siskiyou Resource Conservation District, for a term ending November 26, 2026. Barry Brown appointed.

Deputy County Clerk Wendy Winningham provided an overview of the request to fill a vacancy on the Siskiyou Resource Conservation District Board, advising that local resident Barry Brown was eligible to serve as a registered voter living within the District boundaries. Continued...

Appointments – County Clerk – (continued)

It was moved by Supervisor Haupt, seconded by Supervisor Kobseff and carried, following a roll call vote with Supervisors Valenzuela, Haupt, Harris, Ogren and Kobseff voting YES, to appoint Barry Brown to the unscheduled vacancy on the Siskiyou Resource Conservation District, for a short term ending November 26, 2026.

Minute Approval - February 4, 2025. Approved.

It was moved by Supervisor Valenzuela, seconded by Supervisor Haupt and carried, following a roll call vote with Supervisors Valenzuela, Haupt, Harris, Ogren and Kobseff voting YES, to approve the February 4, 2025 minutes as presented.

Public Hearings - Community Development - Planning Division - Public hearing for the first reading of an Ordinance reclassifying approximately 323 acres of land south and west of Highway 3 and the community of Callahan, from Rural Residential Agricultural, 40 acre minimum (R-R-B-40) to Timberland Production District (TPZ) on APN 031-290-010; Township 39N, Range 8W, Sections 7; MDB&M, for the McDonagh Timberlands Zone Change (Z-24-01) project. First reading approved; public hearing for second reading continued to March 4, 2025.

This was the time set for a public hearing for the first reading of an Ordinance reclassifying approximately 323 acres of land south and west of Highway 3 and the community of Callahan, from Rural Residential Agricultural, 40 acre minimum (R-R-B-40) to Timberland Production District (TPZ) on APN 031-290-010; Township 39N, Range 8W, Sections 7; MDB&M, for the McDonagh Timberlands Zone Change (Z-24-01) project.

The Chair opened the public hearing.

Senior Planner James Phelps appeared before the Board and provided an overview of the request to rezone property from Rural Residential Agricultural, 40 acre minimum parcel size to Timberland Production District to be consistent with historic and existing use of the property. Mr. Phelps advised that there had been no public comments or objections received with regard to the project and that the Planning Commission recommended approval. Mr. Phelps requested that the project be considered exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15264, Timberland Preserves.

In response to the Chair, Deputy County Clerk Wendy Winningham advised that the Clerk's Office had not received any correspondence related to the item.

Brief discussion followed between Mr. Phelps and Ms. Winningham regarding the need to correct a typographical error in the Ordinance title (Sections 7 should read Section 7).

There were no public comments received.

It was moved by Supervisor Haupt, seconded by Supervisor Kobseff and carried, following a roll call vote with Supervisors Valenzuela, Haupt, Harris, Ogren and Kobseff voting YES, to introduce, waive, and approve the first reading of the McDonagh Timberlands rezoning ordinance to amend Zoning District Map 10-6.205-519 with the typographical error in the Ordinance title corrected, and direct the Clerk to schedule a continued public hearing on the determination of the CEQA exemption and a second reading of the ordinance amending Zoning District Map 10-6.205-519 on March 4, 2025.

Board and Staff Reports

Supervisor Valenzuela advised of his attendance at a California State Association of Counties (CSAC) Board meeting and awards dinner in Sacramento CA.

Supervisor Harris advised of his attendance at a Tulelake Volunteer Fire Department Crab Feed, a Local Transportation Commission (LTC) meeting, a Siskiyou County Fish and Game Commission meeting, a meeting with McCloud residents and a meeting with Melissa Cummins regarding the LTC. Supervisor Harris additionally advised of being at the Glenn County Republicans' Center.

Continued...

Board and Staff Reports – (continued)

Supervisor Kobseff advised of his attendance as the 2025 Chair of the Golden State Natural Resources (GNSR) Board meeting via ZOOM, an Air Pollution Control District (APCD) Board meeting, a Siskiyou County Fish and Game Commission and a Tri-counties meeting via ZOOM.

Supervisor Haupt advised of his participation in multiple calls with the National Wildfire Institute regarding a Presidential Executive Orders on wildfire response, an Air Pollution Control District (APCD) Board meeting, and an After Action Review concerning evacuation impacts on agriculture with the County’s Agricultural Commissioner and Sheriff. Supervisor Haupt additionally advised that he would be recognized for his work in forestry by the American Forest Resource Council (AFRC) at their Conference in April, 2025.

Supervisor Ogren advised of her attendance at a Local Transportation Commission (LTC) meeting, a Siskiyou County Fish and Game Commission meeting and an OreCal RC&D meeting.

Closed Session - Conference with real property negotiators pursuant to Government Code §54956.8, two properties, conference with legal counsel, existing litigation pursuant to Government Code §54956.9(d)(1), two cases, conference with legal counsel, anticipated litigation pursuant to Government Code §54956.9, initiation of litigation pursuant to Government Code §54956.9(d)(4), one case, conference with legal counsel, anticipated litigation pursuant to Government Code §54956.9, significant exposure to litigation pursuant to Government Code §54956.9(d)(2), one case, commenced at 9:28 a.m., concluded at 9:55 a.m., with action taken.

Report on Closed Session

County Counsel Natalie E. Reed announced that closed session concluded at 9:55 a.m., with the following reportable action taken.

With regard to item 4F, Conference with legal counsel, anticipated litigation pursuant to Government Code §54956.9, initiation of litigation pursuant to Government Code §54956.9(d)(4), one case, Ms. Reed advised that it was moved by Supervisor Haupt and seconded by Supervisor Kobseff and carried with a vote of YES by Supervisors Harris, Haupt, Ogren and Kobseff with Supervisor Valenzuela voting NO, to initiate litigation and once the complaint is filed the defendants and action will be identified upon inquiry by any person.

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