

State of California, County of Siskiyou

Flood Control and Water Conservation District Minutes

May 21, 2024

The Honorable Directors of the Flood Control and Water Conservation District of Siskiyou County, California, met in regular session this 21st day of May 2024; there being present Directors Brandon Criss, Ed Valenzuela, Michael N. Kobseff and Nancy Ogren, County Administrator Angela Davis, District Counsel Natalie E. Reed, and County Clerk and ex-Officio Clerk of the Board of Directors Laura Bynum by Deputy County Clerk Wendy Winningham. Ray A. Haupt was absent.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Kobseff.

Public Comment

There were no public comments received.

Flood District - Discussion, direction and possible action re the future of the Delta Pedestrian Bridge Project to be located on the northwest side of Lake Siskiyou, following two unsuccessful bid attempts, and including evaluation of the Project by PACE Engineering. Presentation and discussion only.

General Services Deputy Director Amanda Kimball appeared before the District Board and provided an overview of the request for input regarding the future of the Delta Pedestrian Bridge Project located a Lake Siskiyou. Ms. Kimball advised that the County installs temporary short-span bridges over the Sacramento River that flows into the northwest side of Lake Siskiyou when the river level is low enough and that PACE Engineering representative who had evaluated the proposed project was available for discussion/questions.

Director Valenzuela advised spoke in support of furthering the project as a benefit to South County residents and economy.

PACE Engineering representative Shawn Wade appeared before the District Board, summarizing his technical memorandum that provided a brief scope of work and a rough estimate of potential costs associated with constructing the pedestrian bridge. Mr. Wade shared concerns regarding the higher construction costs due to the proposed length of the pedestrian bridge which would require support piers placed in the waterway.

Director Valenzuela suggested building up a fund with the goal of developing plans that could support seeking outside funding to complete the bridge project.

Discussion followed between members of the District Board and Ms. Kimball regarding the potential construction costs, the need to research the status of the Lake Siskiyou Trail within the campground area, the funding available to the District and County from the Box Canyon Dam Hydroelectric Facility, upcoming projects slated for Facility and existing pedestrian bridge requiring funding, the reduced power purchase dollar amount, the need to research possible grant funding to develop an engineering plan for future use and request for additional information related to upcoming Flood and Power Authority projects and associated costs.

Director Valenzuela suggested that the item be tabled for the time being.

Director Kobseff shared concerns regarding the need to address a possible groundwater well for the Lake Siskiyou campground (versus use of a local spring), improvements to the Lake Siskiyou boat ramp and possible means for revenue generation from idle land at the Lake.

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

Caller Nick Joslin spoke in support of waiting for funding to become available before constructing a new bridge.

Flood Control - Natural Resources - Discussion and possible direction re presentation of an update on the correction to the Butte Valley Groundwater Sustainability Plan. Presentation and discussion only.

Natural Services Policy Specialist Matt Parker appeared before the District Board, providing a brief overview of the request and advising that the County's consultant Dr. Thomas Harder with University of California, Davis was available to present information via teleconference phone/ZOOM. Mr. Parker reiterated that the Butte Valley Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) was deemed incomplete by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) and distributed an 18-page powerpoint document detailing the process for correcting the GSP.

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

Dr. Harder presented the powerpoint, including an overview of two proposed corrective actions to reassess the overdraft conditions (refine the water budget and describe feasible management actions) and to describe quantitative undesirable results to be avoided. Dr. Harder summarized three Findings (i.e. undesirable long-term water level decline, the need for sufficient subsurface outflow toward Tulelake/Lost River and possible reduction of sustainable yield (groundwater recharge) by 10% less than the 2011-2023 average) and the evidence associated with each Finding. Dr. Harder continued the powerpoint, including an overview of two Core Action Options to address the needed correction (one more restrictive, one less restrictive) and the summarized the recommended Core Action Option 2 that would require a strong well mitigation program, reduced sustainable yield (groundwater recharge) and keep thresholds define in the 2022 Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP).

In response to Mr. Parker, members of the District Board were in support of the proposed Core Action Option 2. Mr. Parker briefly summarized the next steps in correcting the Butte Valley GSP which was anticipated to be considered and adopted at a public hearing on July 9, 2024.

Caller Rick Dowdy from Copco Lake shared concerns regarding the negative impacts associated with dam removal on the Klamath River system and spoke in support of rebuilding new dams.

Flood District - Discussion, direction and possible action re Resolution approving the identified Base Rate increases for the identified sites and units as set forth in Attachment A - Lake Siskiyou Campground Resort Rate Adjustment Fees. Resolution FLD 24-02 adopted.

General Services Deputy Director Amanda Kimball appeared before the District Board and provided an overview of the request to increase various fees for Lake Siskiyou campground sites at the request of the Concessionaire.

Following discussion between members of the District Board regarding the anticipated increased fee implementation date, it was moved by Director Valenzuela, seconded by Director Kobseff and carried, following a roll call vote with Directors Valenzuela, Criss, Ogren and Kobseff voting YES and Director Haupt ABSENT, to adopt Resolution FLD 24-02 increasing fees at the Lake Siskiyou Campgrounds.

Transfer of Funds - Siskiyou County Flood Control & Water - \$90,000. Resolution FLD 24-03 adopted.

It was moved by Director Valenzuela, seconded by Director Ogren and carried, following a roll call vote with Directors Valenzuela, Criss, Ogren and Kobseff voting YES and Director Haupt ABSENT, to adopt Resolution FLD 24-03, Transfer of Funds – Siskiyou County Flood Control & Water, in the amount of \$90,000.

Minute Approval - May 7, 2024. Approved.

It was moved by Director Criss, seconded by Director Valenzuela and carried, following a roll call vote with Directors Valenzuela, Criss, Ogren and Kobseff voting YES and Director Haupt ABSENT, to approve the May 7, 2024 minutes as presented.

Closed Session - Flood District - 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 12:59 p.m., concluded at 1:07 p.m., with no action taken.

Report On Closed Session

District Counsel Natalie E. Reed announced that closed session concluded at 1:07 p.m., with no reportable action taken.

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

Attest:
Laura Bynum, County Clerk

Michael N. Kobseff, Chair

By: _____
Deputy