

MODOC COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Ned Coe, Supervisor District I
Shane Starr, Supervisor District II
Kathie Rhoads, Supervisor District III
Casey Cockrell, Supervisor District IV
Geri Byrne, Supervisor District V



Ned Coe
Chairperson

Chester Robertson
County Administrative Officer

UC Intermountain Research and Extension Center
2816 Havlina Road, Tulelake, CA 96134
(530) 233-6201
<http://www.co.modoc.ca.us>

SPECIAL MEETING

MINUTES FOR MONDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2025
10:00 AM

Call to Order

Attendee Name	Title	Status
Ned Coe	Supervisor District I	Present
Shane Starr	Supervisor District II	Present
Kathie Rhoads	Supervisor District III	Absent
Casey Cockrell	Supervisor District IV	Present
Geri Byrne	Supervisor District V	Present
Chester Robertson	County Administrative Officer	Present
Tiffany Martinez	Clerk of the Board/Assistant County Administrative Officer	Present
Margaret Long	County Counsel	Absent

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comment

This is the time set aside for citizens to address the Board on matters on the consent agenda and matters not otherwise on the agenda. Comments should be limited to matters within the jurisdiction of the Board. If your comment concerns an item shown on the agenda please address the Board after that item is open for public comment. By law, the Board cannot take action on matters that are not on the agenda. Unless otherwise announced, the Chair reserves the right to limit the duration of each speaker to three minutes. Speaker may not cede their time.

Agenda items with times listed will be considered at that time all other items will be considered as listed on the agenda or as deemed necessary by the Chair.

None.

1. Public Requested Items

- 1.a. **CONSIDERATION/ACTION: Discussion and possible direction regarding a presentation on the 2025 water year and outlook for the 2026 water year.**

Executive Director of Klamath Water Users Association, Elizabeth Nielsen, provided a background on the 2025 water year and outlook for 2026 as follows: 1) Social media outreach for the Klamath Basin update; 2) Update on the past water reductions and current improved water conditions; 3) Update on work conducted with the Bureau of Reclamation for the 2026 water year.

Alan Heck, Area Manager for the Klamath Bureau of Reclamation Office, provided an overview of past water years and current conditions in the Klamath Basin.

A discussion was held, and several questions were asked of the staff.

RESULT:	NO ACTION TAKEN
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1.b. **CONSIDERATION/ACTION: Discussion and possible direction regarding the impacts on irrigators associated with the re-evaluation of Endangered Species Act requirements for the Klamath Project.**

Executive Director of Klamath Water Users Association, Elizabeth Nielsen, provided a background on impacts to irrigators associated with the reevaluation of the Endangered Species Act. Executive Director of Klamath Water Users Association Nielsen provided an update on the reconsultation.

A discussion was held, and several questions were asked of the staff.

RESULT:	NO ACTION TAKEN
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1.c. **CONSIDERATION/ACTION: Discussion, direction, and possible action regarding the draft letter to the Bureau of Reclamation Acting Commissioner, Scott Cameron, expressing support for commitments under the 2016 Klamath Power and Facilities Agreement, particularly measures intended to prevent fish from entering Klamath Reclamation Project diversions.**

Executive Director of Klamath Water Users Association, Elizabeth Nielsen, provided a background on a memorandum from Siskiyou County and a draft letter to the Bureau of Reclamation Acting Commissioner, Scott Cameron. Executive Director of Klamath Water Users Association Nielsen provided a background on the current status of salmon migration.

A discussion was held, and several questions were asked of the staff.

Scott Seus provided comments on the number of fish species within the Klamath Basin. Seus provided comments on the benefits and potential impacts of new fish screens.

Modoc Nation Homelands Director, Ken Sandusky, provided comments on the ecological function of the upper part of the Klamath Basin and the presence of water. Sandusky provided comments on how delivering water to the project benefits the entire ecosystem.

John Crawford reported that he serves as a board member for both the Tulelake Irrigation District and the Klamath Water Users Association. Crawford provided comments on the historical and current status of fish within the Klamath Basin. Crawford provided comments on the need for transparency with the reintroduction of fish into water systems and encouraged the Tri-Counties

Committee to provide comments on all of the issues discussed during the meeting today.

A discussion was held, and several questions were asked of the staff.

Motion by Supervisor Byrne, seconded by Supervisor Starr, to draft a letter to the Bureau of Reclamation Acting Commissioner, Scott Cameron, expressing support for commitments under the 2016 Klamath Power and Facilities Agreement, and include information on the topics discussed under item 1.c. at the December 15, 2025, Tri-Counties meeting to be reviewed and approved by the Tri-Counties Committee and Modoc County Board of Supervisors

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	District V Supervisor, Geri Byrne
SECONDER:	District II Supervisor, Shane Starr
AYES:	District I Supervisor, Ned Coe, District V Supervisor, Geri Byrne, District II Supervisor, Shane Starr, District IV Supervisor, Casey Cockrell
ABSTAIN:	None
ABSENT:	District III Supervisor, Kathie Rhoads

11:27 a.m. The Chair of the Board recessed for a five-minute break.

11:37 a.m. The Chair of the Board reconvened the meeting and moved to item 2.a.

2. Departmental Requested Items

- 2.a. **CONSIDERATION/ACTION: Discussion and possible direction regarding the presentation on the 2025 Tri-Counties Workgroup progress, subjects including but not limited to Bureau of Reclamation coordination, gray wolf management, Keno Dam infrastructure, and Secure Rural Schools funding.**

Project Coordinator, Joanne Johnson, provided a background on the activities of the Tri-Counties working group throughout 2025.

RESULT:	NO ACTION TAKEN
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3. Board of Supervisors Requested Items

- 3.a. **CONSIDERATION/ACTION: Discussion and possible direction regarding anadromous fish populations and the return of spawners, including possible factors that may contribute to lower returns.**

Siskiyou County Supervisor, Michael Kobseff, provided a background regarding anadromous fish populations and the return of spawners.

A discussion was held by the Siskiyou and Modoc Board of Supervisors and the Klamath County Commissioners.

RESULT:	NO ACTION TAKEN
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3.b. **CONSIDERATION/ACTION: Discussion and possible direction regarding an update on redistricting in California ahead of the 2026 midterm elections.**

Modoc County Supervisor, Geri Byrne, provided a background on the redistricting in California ahead of the 2026 midterms. Supervisor Byrne reported that the court hearing is currently in progress regarding the challenge to Prop 50 and detailed the filing dates for elected office.

RESULT:	NO ACTION TAKEN
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3.c. **CONSIDERATION/ACTION: Discussion and possible direction regarding an update on Secure Rural Schools (SRS) funding.**

Modoc County Supervisor, Geri Byrne, provided an update on Secure Rural Schools (SRS) funding.

Klamath County Commissioner, Derrick DeGroot, reported on the recent passing of the bill to fund SRS for 2024 and 2025. Klamath County Commissioner DeGroot reported the agencies will have to begin to advocate for the 2026 funding of SRS.

Siskiyou County Supervisor, Michael Kobseff, reported on the efforts of Assemblymember, Heather Hadwick and Senator, Megan Dahle, who took ten (10) rural county students back to Washington D.C. to advocate for SRS.

Supervisor Byrne thanked Congressman LaMalfa and Robert Weidner for their efforts to work on the successful funding of SRS.

3.d. **CONSIDERATION/ACTION: Discussion and possible direction regarding an update on the Forest Service Reorganization Act of 2025, proposed legislation that would transfer the Forest Service to the Department of the Interior from the Department of Agriculture.**

Modoc County Supervisor, Geri Byrne, provided a background on the proposed draft legislation of the Forest Service Reorganization Act of 2025.

Siskiyou County Supervisor, Ray Haupt, provided comments on his support of the Forest Service moving to the Department of the Interior. Siskiyou County Haupt reported he has concerns about how the legislation would impact the land laws and the potential impacts on fire response.

RESULT:	NO ACTION TAKEN
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3.e. **CONSIDERATION/ACTION: Discussion and possible direction regarding gray wolf activity, cattle depredations, and mitigation efforts.**

Siskiyou County Supervisor, Jess Harris, provided comments regarding the gray wolf activity, cattle depredations, and mitigation efforts. Siskiyou County Supervisor Harris discussed the potential delisting of the gray wolf at the federal level and the public safety issues that are occurring due to gray wolves.

Klamath County Commissioner, Derrick DeGroot, reported that the wolves have recovered and need to be delisted. Klamath County Commissioner Degroot reported he would support letters for the delisting of the gray wolf.

Siskiyou County Supervisor, Ray Haupt, reported on the Siskiyou County efforts to address the issue of the gray wolf. Siskiyou County Supervisor Haup requested guidance from the California Cattlemen's Association and the California Farm Bureau regarding the gray wolf, so the Board of Supervisors could align with those objectives.

Siskiyou County Supervisor, Michael Kobseff, reported there is no option for the lethal take of a gray wolf in California. Siskiyou County Supervisor Kobseff provided an update on the number of confirmed kills of livestock in Siskiyou County.

Modoc County Supervisor, Ned Coe, reported public safety has been the issue that allows for action to be taken.

Siskiyou County Supervisor, Nancy Ogren, reported on the need for signage regarding wolf activity to assist with public safety.

Siskiyou County Supervisor Harris reported there is a potential bill that would be introduced to delist the gray wolf.

The Chair of the Board provided direction to Project Coordinator, Joanne Johnson, to draft a letter of support regarding the delisting of gray wolves, including the issues in Sierra Valley and the proximity to homes, schools, and public facilities.

Siskiyou County Cattlemen's President, Tim Nielsen, stated he would support a federal delisting, but requests that there should be improved transparency by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW). Nielsen stated he feels that CDFW should alter the GPS notifications of wolf locations to be real-time notifications to assist ranchers with reducing depredations of livestock and pets.

Gary Wright stated that the only deterrent for the wolf population is fear, and without lethal force, the issue of wolves is going to get worse.

RESULT:	NO ACTION TAKEN
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ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	District V Supervisor, Geri Byrne
SECONDER:	District II Supervisor, Shane Starr
AYES:	District I Supervisor, Ned Coe, District V Supervisor, Geri Byrne, District II Supervisor, Shane Starr, District IV Supervisor, Casey Cockrell
ABSTAIN:	None
ABSENT:	District III Supervisor, Kathie Rhoads

There being no further business to come before the Board at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 12:40 p.m. to meet in regular session on January 13, 2026.

Tiffany A. Martinez
Clerk of the Board

Ned Coe
Chair of the Board