



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

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July 30, 2019

Kimberly D. Bose
Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20426

RE: Docket numbers P-2082-062 and P-14803-000 (Klamath Project / Lower Klamath Project)

Dear Secretary Bose:

The purpose of this letter is to express Humboldt County's continued support for the transfer and surrender applications submitted for the four lowermost dams on the Klamath River, and to urge expedited initiation of the administrative and environmental review processes necessary for FERC to approve these applications.

Humboldt County is a signatory to the Amended Klamath Hydroelectric Settlement Agreement (Amended KHSA) executed in 2016 in partnership with the states of California and Oregon, the Karuk and Yurok Tribes, dam owner PacifiCorp, and several conservation groups and other parties. License transfer from PacifiCorp to the Klamath River Renewal Corporation (KRRRC) and subsequent license surrender by KRRRC are necessary steps to implement the Amended KHSA. Humboldt County is an intervening party in these FERC proceedings.

KRRRC filed a Definite Plan for Klamath Dam removal on June 28, 2018. The Definite Plan provided comprehensive analysis and detail on KRRRC's plan for reservoir drawdown, facilities removal, and reservoir restoration. On July 29, 2019, KRRRC filed a follow-up submittal presenting KRRRC's plan to manage the costs, uncertainties, and risks associated with this complex project. This submittal demonstrates that KRRRC is well positioned to implement the project within the total amount of committed funds and has developed a prudent, multi-faceted risk management program.

Humboldt County and other coastal counties in northern California and southern Oregon have historically been dependent upon a healthy Klamath River and its fisheries. The Klamath River flows through Humboldt County for approximately 60 miles. The Klamath Hydroelectric Project has contributed to degradation of aquatic resources, declining fishery stocks, economic losses, loss of recreational opportunities, and hardships to fishing and tribal communities. There continues to be significant risk for a catastrophic fish die-off in the Klamath River due to late-summer low-water conditions and the presence of blue green algae blooms and pathogens

caused by the Klamath Hydroelectric Project. Opportunities for commercial, recreational, and tribal fishing on the Klamath River continue to be severely limited. The Klamath River is unhealthy and the need for improvement is urgent.

The benefits of dam removal on the Klamath River have been thoroughly analyzed. Dam removal will restore natural alluvial processes, restore access to spawning areas and cold water pools, and significantly improve water quality conditions. Dam removal will alleviate ongoing economic and social hardships to our communities who deeply value the Klamath River.

Humboldt County remains committed to support KRRC and the coalition of Settlement Agreement parties in removing the Klamath River dams and restoring ecosystem health in the Klamath River basin. We appreciate FERC's review of KRRC's July 29, 2019 submittal and request FERC's assistance in taking action to initiate the environmental review process as soon as possible.

Sincerely,



Rex Bohn, Chair

Humboldt County Board of Supervisors