

State of California, County of Siskiyou

Board of Supervisors Minutes, October 21, 2025

The Honorable Board of Supervisors of Siskiyou County, California, met in regular session this 21st day of October 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, Siskiyou Power Authority and In Home Supportive Services Public Authority. Deputy County Administrator Sherry Lawson led in the salute to the flag of the United States of America.

Invocation - Siskiyou County Sheriff Chaplain Keith Bradley provided an invocation.

Presentations from the Public

Copco resident Woody Wikum appeared before the Board and thanked the County for the efforts made to repair and upgrade Copco Road.

California Department of Fish and Wildlife Environmental Program manager for Klamath Watershed Program Michael Harris appeared before the Board, providing an update regarding the Big Springs Ranch property (i.e. fuels reduction and habitat restoration efforts, use of water on the land, wildlife and flow monitoring efforts and anticipated future public interaction opportunities) and an update regarding additional projects located within the County.

The Nature Conservancy Project Director Amy Campbell appeared before the Board, sharing concerns regarding a letter of opposition to proposed Marble Peaks Land Acquisition by The Nature Conservancy being considered on the consent agenda. Ms. Campbell addressed areas of concern within the draft letter with regard to potential reduction in the County's tax base, wildfire mitigation/fuels reduction efforts and continuation of the County's agricultural heritage.

Friends of Hibbard Field and Siskiyou County Museum representative Grace Bennett appeared before the Board, distributing and summarizing a one-page update on the Museum's 2025 Family Fun Day event. In addition, Ms. Bennett spoke in support of the Consent Agenda request to extend the Hibbard Field license agreement.

Consent Agenda – Approved.

At Supervisor Valenzuela's request, item 5B, County Administration's letter to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's Wildlife Conservation Board was pulled from the consent agenda for discussion.

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

Agriculture

 Ratify noxious weed management agreement between USDA Forest Service, Klamath National Forest and the Siskiyou County Department of Agriculture.

County Administration

 Approve and sign a letter to CalPERS Chief Health Director Donald Moulds reflecting the Board's concerns about employee experiences with Blue Shield and Included Health.

County Administration

 Approve the extension of the License (with Friends of Hibbard Field) for an additional five-year term, through January 10, 2031, including the extension of all other terms and conditions of the License, which shall remain in full force and effect.

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Consent Agenda – (continued)

County Administration - Personnel

Adopt Resolution P 25-174 amending the Siskiyou County Salary Schedule and position allocation list for positions in County service effective October 26, 2025.

County Administration - Personnel

Approve the Award and adopt the Proclamation congratulating and recognizing the Quarter 3 Peak of Excellence winner Toni Van Nocker for her contributions to Siskiyou County.

County Administration - Personnel

Approve and adopt the Proclamation congratulating and recognizing John Schaefer for 23 years of dedicated service and contributions to the community upon his retirement from Siskiyou County.

County Administration - Personnel

Approve and adopt the Proclamation congratulating and recognizing Rose Bullock for 26 years of dedicated service and contributions to the community upon her retirement from Siskiyou County.

Facilities Management - Maintenance

Accept the Notice of Completion for the Siskiyou County Government Center Parking lot repair, by Lamb Unlimited General Engineering, authorizing the Board Chair to sign and directing the Clerk of the Board to record the notice with the Assessor-Recorder within five days.

Office of Emergency Services

Direct the Auditor-Controller to establish an activity code for the 2024 Homeland Security Grant. Funds for this grant were included in the adopted 25/26 budget.

Probation Department

Repeal their approval of the Memorandum of Understanding with Butte County Probation Department approved on October 7, 2025; and approve rate MOU between Butte County Probation and Siskiyou County Probation for placement of juvenile court wards at the Butte County Juvenile Hall Facility for the term of August 1, 2025, through June 30, 2028.

Transfer of Funds - Board of Supervisors/Public Works - \$5,000. Resolution 25-175 adopted.

Transfer of Funds - Code Enforcement - \$770. Resolution 25-176 adopted.

Transfer of Funds - Emergency Services - \$223,396. Resolution 25-177 adopted.

Transfer of Funds - Opioid Subdivision Fund/Public Defender - \$54,989. Resolution 25-178 adopted.

County Administration - Approve letter to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's Wildlife Conservation Board expressing opposition to the proposed Marble Peaks Land Acquisition of approximately 445 acres located in Etna, California by The Nature Conservancy. Approved.

This item was pulled from the consent agenda at Supervisor Valenzuela's request. Supervisor Valenzuela spoke in support of The Nature Conservancy's ongoing conservation efforts.

Following brief discussion between members of the Board regarding the proposed letter and recommended approval, it was moved by Supervisor Harris and seconded by Supervisor Haupt to authorize the Chair to sign a letter of opposition in response to correspondence from the California Wildlife Conservation Board regarding a proposed land acquisition in District 5, referred to as Marble Peaks.

Supervisors Kobseff and Haupt voiced concerns regarding failed previous Nature Conservancy land conservation purchases, the lack of California State regulatory relief for agriculture in the Shasta and Scott Valley watersheds that was anticipated from earlier conservation projects, potential negative impacts associated with removing water from the agriculture lands and potential violation of the Scott Valley Area Plan should the Marble Peaks land acquisition be approved by the California Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB).
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County Administration – (continued)

Supervisor Valenzuela spoke in support of the benefits to local landowners associated with conservation projects.

Following further discussion regarding possible devaluation of land values when irrigation and other water is removed from the land and the lack of earlier Board discussion and consideration of the possible land acquisition prior to drafting of the opposition letter, the Chair called from the question.

The motion to approve the letter of opposition carried, following a roll call vote with Supervisors Haupt, Harris, Kobseff and Ogren voting YES and Supervisor Valenzuela voting NO.

Board of Supervisors' Requests - Board of Supervisors - Discussion and possible direction re presentation from the California State Association of Counties (CSAC), including but not limited to authorities, process, powers and limitations associated with becoming a Charter County. Presentation and discussion only.

California State Association of Counties (CSAC) Legislative Advocate Eric Lawyer appeared before the Board and distributed a 27-page powerpoint presentation, which included an overview of CSAC (composed of all 58 California counties). Mr. Lawyer advised that CSAC advocates for County governments before state and federal policymakers and provides educational opportunities to the public and for various County staff members. Mr. Lawyer provided a definition of a county charter and the various Articles and Sections of the California Constitutions defining county powers under a charter. Mr. Lawyer advised that a charter could be proposed by either a county Board of Supervisors or by a Charter Commission, with voters deciding whether to adopt a proposed charter at the next election. Mr. Lawyer provided an overview of the limitations, certain provisions and county powers that could be in a county charter (i.e. authority over the structure and operation/governance of local government). Mr. Lawyer summarized charter requirements for county officials and governance, including a county elected body that could be more, but not less than five (5) members with the Sheriff, District Attorney and Assessor positions being elected, not appointed.

Continuing the powerpoint, Mr. Lawyer summarized the differences between city and county charters, advising that counties may have police powers that are not in conflict with general (state) laws and summarized 'matters of statewide concern' (i.e. traffic and vehicle regulation, educational policies, open meeting laws, eminent domain, tort claims, local agency investments), that would not be superseded by a county charter. Mr. Lawyer further advised that counties could make and enforce ordinances/regulations not in conflict with general laws. Mr. Lawyer compared General Law and Charter county specifics, summarized statistics related to California's 15 charter counties and provided an overview of recent issues and associated court cases that have occurred in various charter counties. Mr. Lawyer summarized the charter process outlined in Government Code §23700-23732, including the processes and associated timeframes.

Supervisor Haupt shared concerns regarding the potential negative impacts associated with Assembly Bill 263 (AB 263) related to water regulations in the Scott and Shasta River watersheds.

Discussion followed between members of the Board and Mr. Lawyer regarding the ability of counties to have a single issue addressed via charter with the remaining addressed by general law, the inability of counties to usurp general (state) laws or 'matters of statewide concern' through the charter process, the need for additional legal research related to possible charter impacts regarding electric power generation activities, land issues with regard to code enforcement and possible impacts should a local jurisdiction/city adopt a charter (i.e. city/county relationships).

Public Requests - First 5 Siskiyou Children and Families Commission - Discussion, direction and possible action re Proclamation for the 18th Annual "Read Across Siskiyou" 2025 event, endorsing daily reading, singing, and playing with children as a critical foundation for healthy development of lifelong success. Proclamation adopted.

First 5 Siskiyou Children and Families Commission representatives Allison Scull and Judithe Washington appeared before the Board, distributing a 19-page packet of information and a copy of The Hugasaurus book.

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Public Requests - First 5 Siskiyou Children and Families Commission – (continued)

Ms. Washington provided an overview of various programs and associated partnerships to provide services to children ages 0-5 years (i.e. County Library, the Dolly Parton Imagination Library, Read Across Siskiyou and Anytime Storytime).

First 5 Siskiyou Executive Director Karen Pautz appeared before the Board and provided an overview of various opportunities afforded to families and children to support connections and to help children to be successful and ready to start school.

Ms. Scull provided an overview of the book, the upcoming Read Across Siskiyou event on November 12, 2025 and various events and activities to support child wellness.

It was moved by Supervisor Kobseff, seconded by Supervisor Valenzuela and carried, following a roll call vote with Supervisors Valenzuela, Haupt, Harris, Kobseff and Ogren voting YES, to adopt the 18th Annual Read Across Siskiyou Proclamation.

Public Works - Discussion, direction and possible action re an Urgency Ordinance amending Section 3-4.609 of Article 6 of Chapter 4 of Title 3 of the Siskiyou County Code regarding a speed limit reduction from 55 MPH to 45 MPH on Eastside Road from Mile Post 0.00 to Mile Post 11.74, located in Scott Valley. Ordinance 25-06 adopted.

Pursuant to Government §25131 a proposed urgency ordinance amending Section 3-4.609 of Article 6 of Chapter 4 of Title 3 of the Siskiyou County Code regarding a speed limit reduction from 55 MPH to 45 MPH on Eastside Road from Mile Post 0.00 to Mile Post 11.74 was introduced.

Deputy Director of Public Works Garrett Richardson appeared before the Board and provided an overview of the proposed Ordinance to reduce the speed limit on Eastside Road in Scott Valley from 55 MPH to 45 MPH, including a brief overview of the speed survey conducted from milepost 0.0 to milepost 9.72.

In response to Deputy County Clerk Wendy Winingham regarding the terminus of the speed survey and language in the Ordinance for the reduction in speed to milepost 9.72 versus 11.74 in the Ordinance, County Administrator and Mr. Richardson advised that the recommended motion and Ordinance should be corrected to end at milepost 9.72.

It was moved by Supervisor Haupt, seconded by Supervisor Harris and carried, following a roll call vote with Supervisors Valenzuela, Haupt, Harris, Kobseff and Ogren voting YES, to approve and adopt an Urgency Ordinance amending Section 3-4.609 to reduce the speed limit on Eastside Road (County Road 4G05) from 55mph to 45 mph from Post Mile 0.00 to Post Mile 9.72, requiring a four-fifths vote.

Later in the meeting, County Administrator Angela Davis requested reconsideration of this item as new information came to light that the original Ordinance was correct with the termination point set at milepost 11.74.

County Counsel Natalie E. Reed recommended the process to reconsider the previously approved agenda item.

It was moved by Supervisor Haupt, seconded by Supervisor Harris and carried, following a roll call vote with Supervisors Valenzuela, Haupt, Harris, Kobseff and Ogren voting YES, to rescind action taken to approve and adopt an Urgency Ordinance amending Section 3-4.609 to reduce the speed limit on Eastside Road (County Road 4G05) from 55mph to 45 mph from Post Mile 0.00 to Post Mile 9.72.

It was moved by Supervisor Haupt, seconded by Supervisor Harris and carried, following a roll call vote with Supervisors Valenzuela, Haupt, Harris, Kobseff and Ogren voting YES, to approve and adopt an Urgency Ordinance 25-06 amending Section 3-4.609 to reduce the speed limit on Eastside Road (County Road 4G05) from 55mph to 45 mph from Post Mile 0.00 to Post Mile 11.74.

Public Works – Road Department - Presentation of an update re the Copco Road project. Presentation and discussion only.

Deputy Director of Public Works Garrett Richardson appeared before the Board, advising that all of Public Works' Road Department Districts and additional Public Works staff had completed patching of potholes and needed repairs on Copco Road.

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Public Works – Road Department – (continued)

Members of the Board thanked Mr. Richardson and the Road Department for the extra efforts involved in repairing the roadway.

County Administration – Personnel - Discussion, direction and possible action re Resolution adopting the comprehensive Memorandum of Understanding with the Operating Engineers Local Union No. 3 and implementing the provisions thereof and Resolution amending the Siskiyou County Salary Schedule, effective October 26, 2025, September 27, 2026 and September 26, 2027 for same. Resolutions 25-179 and 25-180 adopted.

County Administrator Angela Davis provided an overview of the request to approve a new three-year Memorandum of Understanding with the Operating Engineers Local Union No 3, including updates/revisions to Compensatory Time Off, the provision of medical insurance and annual 3% salary increases.

It was moved by Supervisor Kobseff, seconded by Supervisor Valenzuela and carried, following a roll call vote with Supervisors Valenzuela, Haupt, Harris, Kobseff and Ogren voting YES, to adopt Resolution 25-179 regarding the Memorandum of Understanding between the County of Siskiyou and Operating Engineers Local Union No. 3 and adopt Resolution 25-180 amending the Siskiyou County Salary Schedule as outlined in the attached resolution Attachment A.

Health and Human Services - Behavioral Health Division - Discussion, direction and possible action re Resolution authorizing application to and participation in the Behavioral Health Continuum Infrastructure Program (BHCIP) for BHCIP Round 2: Unmet Needs grant funding, in the amount of \$27,000,000, and associated letter to California Department of Health Care Services expressing support for the application. Resolution 25-181 and letter approved.

Health and Human Services Agency Director Sarah Collard appeared before the Board and provided an overview of the request to apply for Behavioral Health Continuum Infrastructure Program (BHCIP) Round 2: Unmet Needs grant funding in order to develop a new mental health and substance use disorder outpatient clinic. Additionally, Ms. Collard summarized available funding sources to meet grant 'match' requirements.

It was moved by Supervisor Kobseff, seconded by Supervisor Valenzuela and carried, following a roll call vote with Supervisors Valenzuela, Haupt, Harris, Kobseff and Ogren voting YES, to adopt Resolution 25-181, authorize the Chair to sign the letter of support, and, if awarded funds, authorize the County Administrator or designee to execute the resulting agreements and documents necessary to implement the BHCIP project.

County Administration - Discussion and possible direction re presentation of a summary of legislative items relevant to the Board. Presentation and discussion only.

Project Coordinator Joanne Johnson appeared before the Board, providing an update regarding distribution of Office of Emergency Services' funding from the US Department of Homeland Security and an overview of Assembly Bill 263 (AB 263) related to water regulations in the Scott and Shasta River watersheds. Ms. Johnson advised that passage of AB 263 extended emergency flow regulations through 2031 or until permanent flow regulations are in place and summarized Assembly Bill 531 (AB 531) related to permitting of geothermal projects. Ms. Johnson additionally summarized Assembly Bill 495 (AB 495) related to family caregiving arrangements for minor children, including expansion of an authorized 'relative' with regard to school-related medical care, advising that the Siskiyou County Office of Education was willing to work with the County regarding AB 495 if need be.

Supervisor Haupt voiced concerns regarding the lack of proper scientific data backing up the flow regulations in the Scott and Shasta Valley watersheds under AB 263.

Supervisor Kobseff shared concerns regarding potential impact of flow regulations and local dam removal efforts on returning fish numbers and potential negative impacts of AB 495 with regard to parental consent.

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County Administration – (continued)

Discussion followed between members of the Board, Ms. Johnson and County Administrator Angela Davis regarding the short form to be filled out by a 'relative' potentially without research or verification of the relationship to the child and the Sheriff's research on AB 495.

Sheriff Jeremiah LaRue appeared before the Board, advising of reviewing AB 495 with regard to execution of a caregiver's authorization affidavit by a 'relative' for routine school-related medical care.

Further discussion followed, including Sheriff LaRue regarding the Bill aimed at assisting families in caregiving decisions during potential situations as deportation, incarceration or illness, the potential for misconduct in filling out the affidavit, the efforts being made to work with local school districts concerning the revised authority rules and concerns regarding possible unknown health issues for children that only a parent would be aware.

County Clerk - Discussion, direction and possible action re Appointments In Lieu of Election of eligible persons to various Special Districts pursuant to California Elections Code §10515. Various appointments in lieu of election made; remaining continued to November 18, 2025.

Deputy County Clerk Wendy Winningham provided an overview of the request, advising that the Clerk's Office received interest in reappointment from members of the Grenada Sanitary District, including Directors Frank Cena, Ken Keyes, William Haars and Darin Joling. Ms. Winningham further advised that Director Keyes should be appointed to a full term and the remaining three Directors to short terms.

It was moved by Supervisor Kobseff, seconded by Supervisor Valenzuela and carried, following a roll call vote with Supervisors Valenzuela, Haupt, Harris, Kobseff and Ogren voting YES, to appoint in lieu of election Ken Keyes to the Grenada Sanitary District for a full term, December 5, 2025, ending December 7, 2029 and appoint lieu of election Frank Cena, William Haars and Darin Joling for short terms, December 5, 2025, ending December 3, 2027.

There were no additional appointments in lieu of election made.

The remaining were continued to November 18, 2025.

Board of Supervisors' Requests - Board of Supervisors - Review status of local emergency related to impacts resulting from Lower Klamath Dam removal declared by Resolution 24-51, adopted on March 26, 2024; action to extend or terminate local emergency. Local emergency terminated.

Office of Emergency Services Director Bryan Schenone appeared before the Board and recommended termination of the emergency proclamation.

Community Development Director Rick Dean appeared before the Board and provided a brief update regarding the status of water wells in the Copco area and the efforts being made to erect a water storage tank for wildfire mitigation. Mr. Dean shared concerns that the Mitigation Fund was no longer in place or active, as deadlines had passed.

Discussion followed between members of the Board, Mr. Dean and Mr. Schenone regarding possible impact of the local emergency termination on flood plain analysis efforts, potential negative impacts of termination on the Klamath River Country Estates (KRCE) finances, possible negative impacts associated with woody debris moving into the Klamath River system in rainy weather, the lack of State support for the current emergency proclamation, the process to develop an emergency proclamation in the event of a new emergency and ongoing and future efforts to monitor the situation.

It was moved by Supervisor Haupt, seconded by Supervisor Kobseff and carried, following a roll call vote with Supervisors Valenzuela, Haupt, Harris, Kobseff and Ogren voting YES, to terminate the local emergency related to impacts resulting from Lower Klamath Dam removal declared by Resolution 24-51.

Minute Approval - October 7, 2025. Approved.

It was moved by Supervisor Haupt, seconded by Supervisor Kobseff and carried, following a roll call vote with Supervisors Valenzuela, Haupt, Harris, Kobseff and Ogren voting YES, to approve the October 7, 2025 minutes as presented.

Public Hearings - Community Development - Planning Division - Continued public hearing for the second reading of an Ordinance to repeal and replace Title 10 Chapter 10 of the Siskiyou County Code regarding flood damage prevention, updating Floodplain Management Regulations. Ordinance 25-07 adopted.

This was the time set for a public hearing for the second reading of an Ordinance to repeal and replace Title 10 Chapter 10 of the Siskiyou County Code regarding flood damage prevention, updating Floodplain Management Regulations having been introduced on October 7, 2025.

Building Plans Examiner Seth Curry appeared before the Board and provided an overview of the request to adopt an Ordinance updating the County's floodplain mapping as required by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Mr. Curry advised that FEMA and the State Water Board had approved preliminary flood zone maps, the Planning commission recommended approval and that the project could be considered exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) under the 'common sense' exemption rule. In addition, Mr. Curry advised that there had been no correspondence related to this issue received.

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

There being no public comments, the public hearing was declared closed.

It was moved by Supervisor Kobseff, seconded by Supervisor Valenzuela and carried, following a roll call vote with Supervisors Valenzuela, Haupt, Harris, Kobseff and Ogren voting YES, to waive the second reading of the new floodplain ordinance; determine the project exempt from CEQA pursuant to Sections 15061(b)(3), 15307, 15308; and adopt the new floodplain Ordinance 25-07 which repeals and replaces Title 10 Chapter 10 of the Siskiyou County Code.

Public Hearings - Community Development - Planning Division - Public hearing to consider a Resolution approving an amendment to an existing Agricultural Preserve and a Resolution approving the rescission and re-entry of existing Williamson Act Contracts under Application APA-25-16 and finding the project exempt from CEQA for the Iron Horse Acres LLC Agricultural Preserve Amendment and Williamson Act Contract Rescission and Reentry (APA2516) project, located east of the community of Macdoel. Resolutions 25-182 and 25-183 adopted.

This was the time set for a public hearing to consider a Resolution approving an amendment to an existing Agricultural Preserve and a Resolution approving the rescission and re-entry of existing Williamson Act Contracts under Application APA-25-16 and finding the project exempt from CEQA for the Iron Horse Acres LLC Agricultural Preserve Amendment and Williamson Act Contract Rescission and Reentry (APA2516) project, located east of the community of Macdoel.

The Chair opened the public hearing.

Associate Planner Bernadette Cizin appeared before the Board and provided an overview of the request to amend an existing Agricultural Preserve to bring land into a new Williamson Act contract under one owner and to determine the project exempt under California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) guidelines related to open space easements or contracts.

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

There being no public comments, the public hearing was declared closed.

It was moved by Supervisor Harris, seconded by Supervisor Kobseff and carried, following a roll call vote with Supervisors Valenzuela, Haupt, Harris, Kobseff and Ogren voting YES, to determine the project exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines section 15317, Open Space Easements or Contracts; and adopt Resolution 25-182 approving the amendment of the existing Agricultural Preserves and establish a new Agricultural Preserve; and adopt Resolution 25-183 approving the rescission and reentry of the applicable Williamson Act contracts.

Public Hearings - Community Development - Planning Division - Public hearing to consider a Resolution approving an amendment to an existing Agricultural Preserve and a Resolution approving the rescission and re-entry of existing Williamson Act Contracts under Application APA-25-20 and finding the project exempt from CEQA for the Nielsen Agricultural Preserve Amendment and Williamson Act Contract Rescission and Reentry (APA2520) project, located south of the community of Gazelle. Resolutions 25-184 and 25-185 adopted.

This was the time set for a public hearing to consider a Resolution approving an amendment to an existing Agricultural Preserve and a Resolution approving the rescission and re-entry of existing Williamson Act Contracts under Application APA-25-20 and finding the project exempt from CEQA for the Nielsen Agricultural Preserve Amendment and Williamson Act Contract Rescission and Reentry (APA2520) project, located south of the community of Gazelle.

The Chair opened the public hearing.

Associate Planner Bernadette Cizin appeared before the Board and provided an overview of the request to amend an existing Agricultural Preserve to bring land into a new Williamson Act contract under one owner and to determine the project exempt under California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) guidelines related to open space easements or contracts.

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

There being no public comments, the public hearing was declared closed.

It was moved by Supervisor Kobseff, seconded by Supervisor Haupt and carried, following a roll call vote with Supervisors Valenzuela, Haupt, Harris, Kobseff and Ogren voting YES, to determine the project exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines section 15317, Open Space Easements or Contracts; and adopt Resolution 25-184 approving the amendment of the existing Agricultural Preserve and establish a new Agricultural Preserve; and adopt Resolution 25-185 approving the rescission and reentry of the applicable Williamson Act contract.

Public Hearings - Community Development - Planning Division - Public hearing to consider a Resolution approving an amendment to an existing Agricultural Preserve and a Resolution approving the rescission and re-entry of existing Williamson Act Contracts under Application APA-25-21 and finding the project exempt from CEQA for the Merlo Agricultural Preserve Amendment and Williamson Act Contract Rescission and Reentry (APA2521) project, located east of the city of Etna. Resolutions 25-186 and 25-187 adopted.

This was the time set for a public hearing to consider a Resolution approving an amendment to an existing Agricultural Preserve and a Resolution approving the rescission and re-entry of existing Williamson Act Contracts under Application APA-25-21 and finding the project exempt from CEQA for the Merlo Agricultural Preserve Amendment and Williamson Act Contract Rescission and Reentry (APA2521) project, located east of the city of Etna.

The Chair opened the public hearing.

Associate Planner Bernadette Cizin appeared before the Board and provided an overview of the request to amend an existing Agricultural Preserve to bring land into a new Williamson Act contract under one owner and to determine the project exempt under California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) guidelines related to open space easements or contracts.

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

There being no public comments, the public hearing was declared closed.

It was moved by Supervisor Haupt, seconded by Supervisor Kobseff and carried, following a roll call vote with Supervisors Valenzuela, Haupt, Harris, Kobseff and Ogren voting YES, to determine the project exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines section 15317, Open Space Easements or Contracts; and adopt Resolution 25-186 approving the amendment of the existing Agricultural Preserve and establish a new Agricultural Preserve; and adopt Resolution 25-187 approving the rescission and reentry of the applicable Williamson Act contract.

Public Hearings - Community Development - Planning Division - Public hearing to consider a Resolution approving an amendment to an existing Agricultural Preserve and a Resolution approving the rescission and re-entry of existing Williamson Act Contracts under Application APA-25-22 and finding the project exempt from CEQA for The Nature Conservancy Agricultural Preserve Amendment and Williamson Act Contract Rescission and Reentry (APA2522) project, located north and west of the city of Weed. Continued to November 18, 2025.

This was the time set for a public hearing to consider a Resolution approving an amendment to an existing Agricultural Preserve and a Resolution approving the rescission and re-entry of existing Williamson Act Contracts under Application APA-25-22 and finding the project exempt from CEQA for The Nature Conservancy Agricultural Preserve Amendment and Williamson Act Contract Rescission and Reentry (APA2522) project, located north and west of the city of Weed.

The Chair opened the public hearing.

Associate Planner Bernadette Cizin appeared before the Board and provided an overview of the request to amend an existing Agricultural Preserve to bring land into a new Williamson Act contract under one owner and to determine the project exempt under California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) guidelines related to open space easements or contracts. Ms. Cizin advised that the property owner anticipated continuing approved commercial agricultural use per the County's Williamson Act/Agricultural Preserve Rules.

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

There being no public comments, the public hearing was declared closed.

In response to Supervisor Kobseff, Ms. Cizin provided an overview of The Nature Conservancy's 560 acres and the other properties within the current Agricultural Preserve.

Supervisor Kobseff shared concerns and referred to a document that indicated, that six years after the close of escrow on the property, The Nature Conservancy (TNC) would permanently dedicate a significant portion of the water rights toward instream flow, thus removing water that would otherwise be available for irrigation. In addition, Supervisor Kobseff voiced concerns that TNC planned to hold the property for only ten years, which could mean the State could acquire the property and remove it from agricultural production, advising that the Williamson Act was not intended to create habitat. Supervisor Kobseff spoke in opposition to the project as proposed.

In response to County Counsel Natalie E. Reed, Ms. Cizin advised that the information/document was part of the title report and in the project file, but not in the agenda packet.

Ms. Reed recommended that, if the information and the document was being considered by the Board, it should be made part of the agenda item/record.

In response to Supervisor Kobseff and Ms. Winningham, Ms. Reed advised that, should information in the document be relied on by the Board, it should be made part of the public hearing record, would constitute grounds to continue the public hearing which had been closed. Ms. Reed further advised that the public hearing could be reopened and continued if the Board so desired.

Discussion followed between members of the Board, Ms. Cizin and Ms. Reed regarding the right of a private property owner to willingly sell property to TNC (utilizing State/Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) grant funds), concerns regarding the use of the Williamson Act to preserve property for habitat versus property remaining in agricultural production, the potential that the property would never be returned to agricultural production in the future, the WCB requirements that water rights be relinquished as part of the grant agreement with TNC, the need for the entire Board to review the document referred to earlier and to reopen and continue the public hearing to a date certain.

Ms. Cizin advised that she could provide additional options for the Board's consideration, should the public hearing be continued.

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Public Hearings – Community Development - Planning Division - (continued)

It was moved by Supervisor Kobseff, seconded by Supervisor Haupt and carried, following a roll call vote with Supervisors Valenzuela, Haupt, Harris, Kobseff and Ogren voting YES, to reopen and continue the public hearing to consider a Resolution approving an amendment to an existing Agricultural Preserve and a Resolution approving the rescission and re-entry of existing Williamson Act Contracts under Application APA-25-22 and finding the project exempt from CEQA for The Nature Conservancy Agricultural Preserve Amendment and Williamson Act Contract Rescission and Reentry (APA2522) project, located north and west of the city of Weed, to November 18, 2025.

Public Hearings - Community Development - Planning Division - Public hearing to consider a Resolution approving an amendment to an existing Agricultural Preserve and a Resolution approving the rescission and re-entry of existing Williamson Act Contracts under Application APA-25-23 and finding the project exempt from CEQA for the Owens Agricultural Preserve Amendment and Williamson Act Contract Rescission and Reentry (APA2523) project, located north of the city of Montague. Resolutions 25-188 and 25-189 adopted.

This was the time set for a public hearing to consider a Resolution approving an amendment to an existing Agricultural Preserve and a Resolution approving the rescission and re-entry of existing Williamson Act Contracts under Application APA-25-23 and finding the project exempt from CEQA for the Owens Agricultural Preserve Amendment and Williamson Act Contract Rescission and Reentry (APA2523) project, located north of the city of Montague.

The Chair opened the public hearing.

Associate Planner Bernadette Cizin appeared before the Board and provided an overview of the request to amend an existing Agricultural Preserve to bring land into a new Williamson Act contract under one owner and to determine the project exempt under California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) guidelines related to open space easements or contracts.

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

There being no public comments, the public hearing was declared closed.

It was moved by Supervisor Harris, seconded by Supervisor Kobseff and carried, following a roll call vote with Supervisors Valenzuela, Haupt, Harris, Kobseff and Ogren voting YES, to determine the project exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines section 15317, Open Space Easements or Contracts; and adopt Resolution 25-188 approving the amendment of the existing Agricultural Preserve and establish a new Agricultural Preserve; and adopt Resolution 25-189 approving the rescission and reentry of the applicable Williamson Act contract.

Public Hearings - Community Development - Planning Division - Public hearing to consider a Resolution approving an amendment to an existing Agricultural Preserve, a Resolution approving the rescission and re-entry of existing Williamson Act Contracts under Application APA-25-24 and finding the project exempt from CEQA and a Resolution directing staff to issue a Notice of Non-Renewal for 25.23 acres under new Williamson Act contract for the Marchio Agricultural Preserve Amendment and Williamson Act Contract Rescission and Reentry (APA2524) project, located north of the city of Etna. Resolutions 25-190, 25-191 and 25-192 adopted.

This was the time set for a public hearing to consider a Resolution approving an amendment to an existing Agricultural Preserve, a Resolution approving the rescission and re-entry of existing Williamson Act Contracts under Application APA-25-24 and finding the project exempt from CEQA and a Resolution directing staff to issue a Notice of Non-Renewal for 25.23 acres under new Williamson Act contract for the Marchio Agricultural Preserve Amendment and Williamson Act Contract Rescission and Reentry (APA2524) project, located north of the city of Etna.

The Chair opened the public hearing.

Continued...

Public Hearings - Community Development - Planning Division – (continued)

Associate Planner Bernadette Cizin appeared before the Board and provided an overview of the request to amend an existing Agricultural Preserve to bring land into a new Williamson Act (WA) contract under one owner and to determine the project exempt under California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) guidelines related to open space easements or contracts. In addition, Ms. Cizin recommended issuance of Non-renewal for three substandard parcels equaling 25.23 acres and the inclusion of 51.6 acres not currently under WA contract to the new contract and preserve.

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

There being no public comments, the public hearing was declared closed.

It was moved by Supervisor Haupt, seconded by Supervisor Kobseff and carried, following a roll call vote with Supervisors Valenzuela, Haupt, Harris, Kobseff and Ogren voting YES, to determine the project exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines section 15317, Open Space Easements or Contracts; and adopt Resolution 25-190 approving the amendment of the existing Agricultural Preserve and establish a new Agricultural Preserve; and adopt Resolution 25-191 approving the rescission and reentry of the applicable Williamson Act contract including the additional 51.6 acres and adopt Resolution 25-192 directing staff to issue a Notice of Non-Renewal for the three substandard parcels.

Public Hearings - Community Development - Planning Division - Public hearing to consider a Resolution directing staff to issue a Notice of Non-Renewal for properties under Williamson Act Contract Nos. 72030A, 72062, 76005D, 78025, and 93004, Project AGN-25-03, for various Assessor Parcel Nos. identified in the Resolution for locations north and east of the city of Montague, west of the community of Greenview, south and west of the community of Gazelle and south of the city of Dorris. Resolution 25-193 adopted.

This was the time set for a public hearing to consider a Resolution directing staff to issue a Notice of Non-Renewal for properties under Williamson Act Contract Nos. 72030A, 72062, 76005D, 78025, and 93004, Project AGN-25-03, for various Assessor Parcel Nos. identified in the Resolution for locations north and east of the city of Montague, west of the community of Greenview, south and west of the community of Gazelle and south of the city of Dorris.

The Chair opened the public hearing.

Associate Planner Bernadette Cizin appeared before the Board and provided an overview of the request to consider issuing Notices of Non-Renewal for five properties, including an overview of attempts made to communicate with various property owners and the status of agricultural use surveys requested by the Department for each property.

In response to the Chair, Deputy County Clerk Wendy Winningham advised that the Clerk's Office received two public hearing notification letters back as Undeliverable sent to Jack A. Jones Trustee and Jessie Burcell.

An affected property owner Mark Baird appeared before the Board and voicing concerns regarding the County's Williamson Act/Agricultural Preserve process, including the need for a Title Report (costing the property owner several thousand dollars) and the recording of an easement on his property. Mr. Baird additionally voiced concern regarding the potential for future property owners to be unaware that Williamson Act contract(s) exist on property when being purchased and confusion regarding the Assessor and Tax Parcel Numbers identifying his property.

In response, Ms. Cizin advised of the need for information regarding the usage on the entire Baird property in order to review whether approved usage under the County's Williamson Act (WA)/Agricultural Preserve (AG Preserve) Rules. In addition, Ms. Cizin advised that a Title Report was part of the application process and was unaware of a requirement for a recorded easement in the process.

In response to Supervisors Haupt and Kobseff, Ms. Cizin advised of the need for verification of commercial agricultural use on the property and that there is a process to convert property from WA/AG Preserve to Timber Production Zoning (TPZ).

Continued...

Public Hearings - Community Development - Planning Division – (continued)

Discussion followed between members of the Board and Ms. Cizin regarding the Department's process to address questions/concerns by property owners regarding WA, commercial agricultural uses, the process to change from WA/AG Preserve to TPZ, including the need to cancel an existing WA contract prior to the rezoning process.

Supervisor Haupt shared concerns regarding multiple requests for non-renewal coming before the Board as one agenda item during one public hearing.

Discussion continued, including County Counsel Natalie E. Reed and Assistant County Counsel William Carroll regarding possible removal of the Baird property from the proposed non-renewal Resolution to move forward with the remaining properties in question, concerns regarding possible property owners not receiving notification regarding their WA/AG Preserve (for example a property owner as member of a trust), the Department's process for sending commercial agricultural use surveys and various notifications to those with WA contracts, a suggested possible process to send those surveys out with property tax bills and the 'Address of Record' with the Assessor's Office used for notifications/communications.

With regard to concerns regarding consideration of multiple requests for non-renewal coming before the Board as one agenda, County Administrator Angela Davis reminded the Board of previous direction given to the Planning Department to bring multiple recommended non-renewals before the Board in one agenda item.

In response to Supervisor Kobseff and Ms. Winningham regarding removal of property from the recommended non-renewal process, Ms. Cizin advised that the Baird property was identified as Williamson Act Contract No. 72062.

It was moved by Supervisor Kobseff and seconded by Supervisor Haupt to adopt Resolution directing staff to issue a Notice of Non-Renewal for property under Williamson Act Contracts No. 72030A, 76005D, 78025 and 93004, and hereby taking the following actions: determine that the proposed issuance of Non-Renewals of Williamson Act contracts is categorically exempt under Section 15317 and 15061(b)(3) of the CEQA Guidelines; and authorize staff to process the Notice of Non-Renewals with any changes directed by the Board, with Williamson Act Contract No. 72062 (Baird) removed from consideration.

Mr. Baird reiterated his concerns regarding the County's Williamson Act/Agricultural Preserve process, including the need for an expensive Title Report and the recording of an easement on his property.

There being for further public comments, the public hearing was declared closed.

The Chair called for the question and following a roll call vote with Supervisors Valenzuela, Haupt, Harris, Kobseff and Ogren voting YES, the motion to remove the Baird property, Williamson Act Contract No. 72062 from the project and adopt Resolution 25-193 carried unanimously.

Supervisor Haupt requested that properties with a Trust as property owner, be singled out and considered separately in the non-renewal WA/AG Preserve process.

In response to Ms. Winningham regarding the Baird property, Ms. Cizin advised that she would bring that WA Contract and options back at a future meeting for further consideration by the Board.

Board and Staff Reports

Supervisor Haupt advised of his attendance at the Fallen Hero Memorial dedication event.

Supervisor Ogren advised of her attendance at the Siskiyou County Public Health Drive-Thru Flu vaccination clinic, a North Coast Resource Partnership (NCRP) ad hoc committee on cannabis meeting, a California Association of Local Agency Formation Commissions CALAFCO conference planning meeting, a North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board meeting, an OreCal RC&D meeting, a workshop regarding Chinese labeled pesticides, a NCRP Executive Committee meeting and dinner, a PSA 2 Area Agency on Aging Executive Board meeting and a Behavioral Health Services Board meeting. Supervisor Ogren additionally advised of plans to attend a CALAFCO conference and annual meeting in San Diego.

Closed Session - Conference with legal counsel, existing litigation pursuant to Government Code §54956.9(d)(1), two cases, Personnel pursuant to Government Code §54957(b)(1), commenced at 12:48 p.m., concluded at 1:28 p.m., with action taken.

Vice Chair Haupt brought the Board back into session, as Chair Ogren left closed session and the Board Chambers at 1:12 p.m.

Report On Closed Session

County Counsel Natalie E. Reed announced that closed session concluded at 1:28 p.m., with the following reportable action taken.

With regard to item 15A, Conference with legal counsel, existing litigation pursuant to Government Code §54956.9(d)(1), name of case: Kevin Loynachan, et al., v. Darlene Smiley, in her official capacity as a law enforcement officer for Siskiyou County Sheriff's Office, et al., United States District Court, Eastern District of California, Sacramento Division, Case No. 2:22-cv-00841-WBS-JDP, Ms. Reed advised that Supervisor Ogren recused herself and left the Board Chambers at 1:12 p.m. and did not return.

With regard to item 15B, Conference with legal counsel, existing litigation pursuant to Government Code §54956.9(d)(1), name of case: Kerry Bryan Tobin v. City of Dunsmuir, et al., Siskiyou County Superior Court, Case No. 25CV10906, Ms. Reed advised that it was moved by Supervisor Valenzuela and seconded by Supervisor Kobseff and carried with a unanimous vote of YES by Supervisors Kobseff, Ogren, Harris, Haupt and Valenzuela to authorize defense of suit and representation by the firm Marie & Deedon.

With regard to item 15C, Personnel pursuant to Government Code §54957(b)(1), consider Personnel investigation and public employee discipline/dismissal/release, Ms. Reed advised that it was moved by Supervisor Valenzuela and seconded by Supervisor Ogren and carried with a unanimous vote of YES by Supervisors Kobseff, Ogren, Harris, Haupt and Valenzuela to remove the Director of Public Works pursuant to Siskiyou County Code Section 7-3.04, and the Director of Public Works is immediately relieved of his duties pending the effective date of his removal of November 20, 2025.

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