

State of California, County of Siskiyou

Board of Supervisors Minutes, July 7, 2026

The Honorable Board of Supervisors of Siskiyou County, California, met in regular session this 7th day of July 7, 2026; there being present Supervisors Jess Harris, Ed Valenzuela, Michael N. Kobseff, Nancy Ogren and Ray A. Haupt, Assistant 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 Haupt. 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. Project Coordinator Joanne Johnson 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

Chair Haupt advised that members of the Board are aware of community concerns regarding possible development of a data center or centers and that there was nothing pending before the Board of Supervisors regarding same.

Supervisor Kobseff read a portion of the Declaration of Independence into the record to honor the United States's 250 years.

Supervisor Valenzuela spoke in support of the potential benefits that a City of Mt. Shasta town hall regarding data center development could provide.

Mt. Shasta resident Glenn Kaufmann appeared before the Board, presenting and summarizing an 18-page proposal document entitled: Mount Shasta Organics – Large-Scale Commercial Aquaponics and Hydroponics Business Design and sharing opposition to development of a data center(s) being located within the County.

Mt. Shasta resident Heidi George appeared before the Board, presenting and summarizing a one-page letter supporting annexation of the Crystal Geyser property from the County to the City of Mt. Shasta and suggesting the property and facility be repurposed for factory-built housing. Ms. George voiced opposition to development of a data center(s) being located within the County.

Area resident Jack Trout appeared before the Board, suggesting development of a cultural/arts center versus a data center at the Crystal Geyser property.

Audience member Brian Petersen appeared before the Board, summarizing concerns regarding One Shasta LLC, a real estate investment company and concerns regarding the negative impacts associated with data centers and their operation (i.e. electricity use and rates, noise pollution, water usage, etc.).

Mt. Shasta resident Mark Rodgers appeared before the Board, presenting and summarizing a two-page letter supporting alternatives for the former Crystal Geyser property versus a data center(s) proposal.

County resident Regina Chichizola appeared before the Board, voicing opposition to data centers within the County and voicing support for the Board to consider a ban or moratorium on data center development.

Audience members Roberta and Ron Holman appeared before the Board, voicing opposition to data center development and proposing an environmental and water stewardship center for the former Crystal Geyser property.

Mt. Shasta resident Trisha Matthews appeared before the Board, sharing opposition to development of a data center(s) and suggesting development of a community land trust with local indigenous and tribes to create a mixed use facility at the former Crystal Geyser property.

Audience member Holly Tamas appeared before the Board, presenting a 10-page document and a three-page document regarding proposed AI/data center at the former Crystal Geyser facility and a data center developer lawsuit regarding access to Colorado River water.

Continued...

Presentations from the Public – (continued)

Ms. Tamas shared concerns regarding a possible data center development and spoke in support of the County requiring transparency, full disclosure and complete environmental review prior to committing to a proposal and in support of the County enacting a two-year moratorium on the sale of the Crystal Geyser property.

Mt. Shasta resident Nate DeTomasi appeared before the Board, voicing opposition to and concerns regarding the negative impacts associated with data centers located within the County and near residences.

Consent Agenda – Approved.

At Chair Haupt's request, items 5C and 5D, County Administration – Personnel's Resolutions regarding certain terms and conditions of employment for Assistant Department Heads and for Appointed Department Heads, including additional Unit Pay, were pulled from the consent agenda and dropped from the agenda.

At Supervisor Kobseff's request, item 5E, County Counsel's request to ratify data sharing and confidentiality agreement with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife concerning the release and use of confidential wildlife information, was pulled from the consent agenda for discussion.

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

County Administration

Approve the 1st Addendum to the contract with Shaw Yoder Antwih Schmelzer and Lange, increasing funding to \$66,000 and extending the term to June 30, 2028.

County Administration

Ratify the June 26, 2026 letter to CDFW Director Meghan Hertel.

General Services- Airports

Authorize the Chair to execute the Ground Lease between the County of Siskiyou and Bette J. Akana at Siskiyou County Airport for the term of July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2031.

General Services - Airports

Approve First Addendum to the Ford Aviation Consulting contract, increasing the contract by \$42,200, bringing the total amount not to exceed to \$61,600 and extending the term through June 30, 2028.

General Services - Sanitation

Approve addendum to contract with Yreka Transfer, LLC, for cardboard recycling at Black Butte Transfer Station, repealing and replacing Exhibit A - Scope of Services and extending the term through June 30, 2029.

Health and Human Services - Behavioral Health Division

Approve and authorize the Chair to sign the agreement for Services between Siskiyou County Health & Human Services Agency, Behavioral Health Division and J. Reid McKellar, Ph.D, for the term July 1, 2026 commencing through June 30, 2028. Authorize the Auditor to appropriate the budget and set expenditures.

Health and Human Services - Behavioral Health Division

Approve and authorize the Chair to sign the Third Addendum to the Contract for Services between Siskiyou County Health and Human Services Agency, Behavioral Health Division, and Remi Vista, for the term of July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027. Authorize the Auditor to appropriate the budget and set expenditures.

Health and Human Services - Behavioral Health Division

Approve and authorize the Chair to sign the Fifth Addendum to the Contract for Services between Siskiyou County Health and Human Services Agency, Behavioral Health Division, and Michael Brown, MSW, LCSW, for the term extending through June 30, 2027 and increase compensation to a total not to exceed amount of \$260,800 and authorize the Auditor to appropriate the budget and set expenditures.

Continued...

Consent Agenda – (continued)

Health and Human Services - Behavioral Health Division

Approve and authorize the Chair to sign the First Addendum to the Contract for Services between Siskiyou County Health and Human Services Agency, Behavioral Health Division and Compassion Pathway Behavioral Health, LLC for the term commencing November 1, 2023 through June 30, 2027. Authorize the Auditor to appropriate the budget and set expenditures.

Health and Human Services - Behavioral Health Division

Approve and authorize the Chair to sign the Third Addendum to the contract between Siskiyou County Health and Human Services Agency, Behavioral Health Division, and Crestwood Behavioral Health, Inc. Authorize the Auditor to appropriate the budget and set expenditures. This amendment incorporates the rates effective FY26/27.

Health and Human Services - Behavioral Health Division

Approve and authorize the Chair to sign the agreement for Services between Siskiyou County Health and Human Services Agency, Behavioral Health Division and Northstate Nursing, Inc. for the term commencing July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2028. Authorize the Auditor to appropriate the budget and set expenditures.

Health and Human Services - Public Health Division

Approve the establishment of a \$200 change fund for the Environmental Health Division of the Siskiyou County Public Health Department, located at 806 S. Main St., Yreka, CA, and designate the Public Health Fiscal Administrative Services Manager will serve as fund custodian, in accordance with the County Cash Handling Policy.

Health and Human Services - Public Health Division

Approve and adopt Resolution 26-114 authorizing the County of Siskiyou to accept the Buckle Up for Life – Gift of Safety 2026–2027 partnership award, including the in-kind allocation of 50 convertible car seats and associated program resources, and authorize the County Administrator, or designee, to execute all documents and fulfill all program requirements necessary for participation.

Health and Human Services - Public Health Division

Approve and authorize the Chair to sign the Governing Board Resolution 26-115 with the State of California – Health and Human Services Agency – California Department of Public Health (CDPH), Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health (MCAH) Division, funding for the California Home Visiting Program (CHVP), State General Fund (SGF) Evidence Based Home Visiting (EBHV) Funding Award for State Fiscal Years (SFY) 2026-2029, to increase the number of families participating in the five EBHV models, authorize the County Administrator to act on behalf of the County to execute any and all program award documents as outlined in Section 2 of the Resolution and authorize the Auditor to establish budget appropriation and set expenditures per the guidelines, for the allocation of \$1,604,175.00, with spending authority July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2029.

Health and Human Services - Public Health Division

Approve the acceptance of the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) Tuberculosis Control Branch Local Assistance Funds for the period of July 1, 2026, to June 30, 2027, with an amount of \$3,389, for the allocation.

Health and Human Services - Social Services Division

Approve and the Chair sign the Contract for Services between Siskiyou County Health and Human Services Agency and the University of California at Davis, for the effective term of July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2028.

Health and Human Services - Social Services Division

Approve and the Chair sign the Contract for Services between Siskiyou County Health and Human Services Agency and Siskiyou Child Care Council which is effective July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027 and determine the vendor to be Sole Source. Continued...

Consent Agenda – (continued)

Health and Human Services - Social Services Division

Approve and the Chair sign the Contract between the Siskiyou County Health and Human Services Agency and the California Department of Social Services in the amount of \$1,199,095. The term of this contract shall be from July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2031.

Probation

Approve First Addendum with Corrections Software Solutions to provide data processing and software licensing to Siskiyou County Probation Department.

Probation

Approve second amendment to rate agreement between Mendocino County Probation and Siskiyou County Probation for placement of juvenile court wards at the Mendocino County Juvenile Detention Facility for the term of July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2028, and rate increase to \$200/day.

Probation

Approve Second Addendum between Siskiyou County Probation and Redwood Toxicology for drug testing extending the term through June 30, 2028.

Probation

Approve rate contract between Tehama County Probation and Siskiyou County Probation for placement of juvenile court wards at the Tehama County Juvenile Detention Facility for the term of July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2028.

Sheriff

Approve Memorandum of Understanding between the Sheriff's Office and Siskiyou Joint Community College District for use of the Sheriff's Firearms Range and the applicable fees in Exhibit A. Allow the Auditor to make appropriations.

Transfer of Funds - Probation - \$17.02. Resolution 26-116 adopted.

Transfer of Funds - Probation - \$175.25. Resolution 26-117 adopted.

County Administration – Personnel - Adopt Resolution regarding certain terms and conditions of employment for Assistant Department Heads, including additional Unit Pay as detailed in the Resolution, effective July 5, 2026. Dropped from the agenda.

This item was pulled from the consent agenda at Chair Haupt's request. Chair Haupt advised that this item was dropped from the agenda at County Administration's request.

County Administration – Personnel - Adopt Resolution regarding certain terms and conditions of employment for Appointed Department Heads, including additional Unit Pay as detailed in the Resolution, effective July 5, 2026. Dropped from the agenda.

This item was pulled from the consent agenda at Chair Haupt's request. Chair Haupt advised that this item was dropped from the agenda at County Administration's request.

County Counsel - Approve request to ratify data sharing and confidentiality agreement with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife concerning the release and use of confidential wildlife information, effective from the date of last signature to December 31, 2027. Approved.

This item was pulled from the consent agenda at Supervisor Kobseff's request.

Supervisor Kobseff shared concerns regarding the County being responsible for all costs incurred by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), advising that the Department should step up to manage the wolf population.

It was moved by Supervisor Kobseff, seconded by Supervisor Haupt and carried, following a roll call vote with Supervisors Valenzuela, Ogren, Kobseff, Harris and Haupt voting YES, to ratify the Data Sharing and Confidentiality Agreement with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), and the County concerning release and use of confidential wildlife information.

Public Requests - Siskiyou Economic Development Council - Discussion, direction and possible action re Resolution authorizing submission of recommendations of Census Tracts for consideration under California's Opportunity Zones 2.0 Program and designating the Community Development Department as the official submitting department and update re time sensitive issues, including impacts and response related to the Roseburg Mill closure and water curtailment economic study. Resolution 26-118 adopted.

Chair Haupt advised that the Resolution for this item needed revision in the last sentence of the second paragraph under #2, to remove the verbiage: 'Chair of the'.

Siskiyou Economic Development (SEDC) Executive Director Tonya Dowse and SEDC Finance Director Jen Thackeray appeared before the Board and presented a two-page document entitled: Development Finance Tools. Ms. Dowse and Ms. Thackeray provided an overview of the request, including a powerpoint entitled: Positioning Siskiyou for Opportunity Zone 2.0 Designation that included an overview of 12 eligible census tracts in the County to be nominated for inclusion in the competitive designation process.

Ms. Dowse recommended that the County's Community Development Department be authorized to submit and nominate the proposed census tracts for consideration in the Federal tax incentive program as a private investment tool.

In response to Supervisor Valenzuela, Community Development Director Hailey Lang advised of working in concert with the SEDC and the County's General Plan Update process.

Discussion followed between members of the Board, Ms. Dowse and Ms. Thackeray regarding the State's process to designate possibly four or five (potentially more) of the identified census tracts, the SEDC's efforts to make a case for the eligible census tracts, the application submittal timeframes and the anticipated environmental and other processes should private investors wish to utilize the incentives.

It was moved by Supervisor Kobseff, seconded by Supervisor Harris and carried, following a roll call vote with Supervisors Valenzuela, Ogren, Kobseff, Harris and Haupt voting YES, to approve (adopt) Resolution 26-118 that authorizes participation in the California process for nominating and designating federal Opportunity Zones and directs the Community Development Director to serve as the County's authorized designee.

Ms. Dowse advised that she would come back before the Board with additional updates as noted on the agenda worksheet.

Public Requests - Ore-Cal RC&D Council - Presentation of an update re a wildlife study and 65% engineering design for two possible wildlife over-crossings on Interstate 5 between the Shasta River Bridge and the Oregon State Line. Presentation and discussion only.

Ore-Cal RC&D Council Executive Director George Jennings and UC Davis representative Fraser Shilling appeared before the Board and distributed copies of the 18-page powerpoint.

Mr. Shilling presented a powerpoint presentation regarding the Interstate-5 (I-5) Siskiyou Wildlife Crossing Planning Project, including an overview of various types of over- and under-crossing structures and how certain wildlife utilize them.

Continuing the powerpoint, Mr. Shilling provided an overview of the Project objective to reduce wildlife versus vehicle collisions and prioritize locations for development of wildlife crossing(s) on I-5 between the Shasta River Bridge and the Oregon state line and summarized the data collection process. Mr. Shilling provided an overview of seven priority locations identified and process to determine feasible locations for crossings that would benefit deer, elk and other wildlife.

Discussion followed between members of the Board, Mr. Shilling and Mr. Jennings regarding field trips taken to view the identified locations for public versus private ownership of land adjacent to those locations, the cost benefits associated with utilizing existing structures (i.e. local bridges) to assist wildlife crossing, the efforts being made to work with CalTrans regarding the Project, possible land trust easements that could improve Project funding opportunities and the recently opened wildlife over-crossing on Highway 97.

General County Fire - Presentation of the 2025 Annual Report of the Siskiyou County Fire Departments, including response totals for fire, medical, and other emergency responses. Presentation and discussion only.

Deputy Chief of Operations and Deputy Siskiyou County Fire Warden Kent Cunningham and South Yreka Fire Protection District Chief and Siskiyou County Fire Chiefs' Association President Bernie Paul appeared before the Board, and distributed a 44-page 2025 Annual Report for Siskiyou County Fire Departments.

Deputy Fire Warden Cunningham summarized the Cooperative Agreement between the County and CalFire and the 2025 Wildland Incident Report within the Annual Report, which included an overview of various fire events from 2025. Mr. Cunningham additionally highlighted fuels reduction efforts and statistics for 2025.

Chief Paul summarized accomplishments from 2025, including an upgraded Siskiyou Command radio system and renewed contract with the College of The Siskiyous (COS) for fire service training. Chief Paul shared concerns regarding the need for newer firefighter Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) which by law must be less than 10 years old to be compliant and the difficulties associated with recruitment and retention of volunteer firefighters. Chief Paul additionally shared concerns regarding the need for leadership training for future fire chiefs and recent changes at the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) with regard to firefighting payments.

Discussion followed between members of the Board, Chief Paul and Mr. Cunningham regarding possible funding opportunities to purchase updated turnout equipment sets, the negative impacts associated with the lack of multiple aid agreements and loss of homeowner fire insurance in many areas of the County, the efforts toward consolidation of fire stations/departments and the need for public outreach regarding the benefits of consolidating fire stations/departments.

Health and Human Services - Social Services Division - Presentation re caseload statistics for the third quarter of Fiscal Year 2025/2026 for various Social Services' programs. Presentation and discussion only.

Social Services Division Director Trish Barbieri and Deputy Director of Administrative Services Kirk Hendricks appeared before the Board.

Mr. Hendricks provided an overview of the caseload statistics for the third quarter of Fiscal Year 2025/2026, including ongoing cases, new cases and fraud activity for various Social Services Division programs.

Discussion followed between members of the Board, Mr. Hendricks and Ms. Barbieri regarding the impacts associated with HR 1, including a nationwide trend of reduced participation in the CalFresh/Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), the need for additional information regarding data spikes on graphs presented to the Board and seasonal employment impacts.

Appointments - County Clerk - Appointment of two members to the scheduled vacancies on the Dunsmuir Recreation and Parks District, for terms ending June 30, 2030. Jack Sutcliffe appointed; remaining vacancy continued to a later date.

Deputy County Clerk Wendy Winningham provided an overview of the request, advising that incumbent Jack Sutcliffe was interested in re-appointment although incumbent William Newman was not. Ms. Winningham requested that the remaining vacancy be continued to a later date.

It was moved by Supervisor Valenzuela, seconded by Supervisor Haupt and carried, following a roll call vote with Supervisors Valenzuela, Ogren, Kobseff, Harris and Haupt voting YES, to appoint Jack Sutcliffe to the scheduled vacancy on the Dunsmuir Recreation and Parks District, for a term ending June 30, 2030.

The remaining vacancy was continued to a later date.

Appointments - County Clerk - Appointment of two members to the scheduled vacancies on the Mt. Shasta Recreation and Parks District, for terms ending June 30, 2030. Heather DeArton appointed; remaining vacancy continued to a later date.

Deputy County Clerk Wendy Winningham provided an overview of the request, advising that incumbent Heather DeArton was interested in re-appointment although incumbent John Courtney was not. Ms. Winningham requested that the remaining vacancy be continued to a later date.

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Appointments - County Clerk – (continued)

It was moved by Supervisor Valenzuela, seconded by Supervisor Kobseff and carried, following a roll call vote with Supervisors Valenzuela, Ogren, Kobseff, Harris and Haupt voting YES, to appoint Heather DeArton to the scheduled vacancy on the Mt. Shasta Recreation and Parks District, for a term ending June 30, 2030.

The remaining vacancy was continued to a later date.

Appointments - County Clerk - Appointment of two members to scheduled vacancies on the Grenada Sanitation District for short terms ending December 3, 2027 to establish a quorum. Harry Shelvock and David Gies appointed.

Deputy County Clerk Wendy Winningham provided an overview of the request, advising that the District was in need of two people to establish a quorum. Ms. Winningham advised that local residents Harry Shelvock and David Gies were both interested and eligible to serve as registered voters residing within the District.

It was moved by Supervisor Kobseff, seconded by Supervisor Harris and carried, following a roll call vote with Supervisors Valenzuela, Ogren, Kobseff, Harris and Haupt voting YES, to appoint Harry Shelvock and David Gies to the scheduled vacancies on the Grenada Sanitation District for short terms ending December 3, 2027 to establish a quorum.

Appointments - County Clerk - Appointment of one member to a scheduled vacancy on the Siskiyou County Assessment Appeals Board for a term ending September 2, 2030. Kevin Cisney appointed.

Deputy County Clerk Wendy Winningham provided an overview of the request, advising that the Clerk's Office received a letter of interest and qualifications to serve from Kevin Cisney and that he met the eligibility requirements to serve on the Assessment Appeals Board. In addition, Ms. Winningham advised that the correct term for the appointment should be September 6, 2027 rather than September 2, 2030.

It was moved by Supervisor Valenzuela, seconded by Supervisor Kobseff and carried, following a roll call vote with Supervisors Valenzuela, Ogren, Kobseff, Harris and Haupt voting YES, to appoint Kevin Cisney to the scheduled vacancy on the Siskiyou County Assessment Appeals Board for a term ending September 6, 2027.

Minute Approval - June 16, 2026. Approved.

It was moved by Supervisor Kobseff, seconded by Supervisor Ogren and carried, following a roll call vote with Supervisors Valenzuela, Ogren, Kobseff, Harris and Haupt voting YES, to approve the June 16, 2026 minutes as presented.

Closed Session - Conference with legal counsel, existing litigation pursuant to Government Code §54956.9(d)(1), 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), two cases, Personnel pursuant to Government Code §54957, consider public employee appointment and consider public employee performance evaluation for the position of County Administrator, commenced at 11:15 a.m. and concluded at 12:54 p.m., with no action taken.

Report On Closed Session

Assistant County Counsel Natalie E. Reed announced that closed session concluded at 12:54 p.m., with no reportable action taken.

Board and Staff Reports

There were no Board or Staff reports given.

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

Attest:
Laura Bynum, County Clerk

Ray A. Haupt, Chair

By: _____
Deputy