



COUNTY OF SISKIYOU

Board of Supervisors

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November 7, 2023

Charlton Bonham, Director
California Department of Fish and Wildlife
P.O. Box 944209
Sacramento, CA 94244-2090

RE: Shasta Indian Nation's request for land transfer

Dear Mr. Bonham,

The Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors is aware that construction of the Klamath River Hydropower Dams caused the displacement of the Shasta Indian Nation's ancestors who called the area home since time immemorial. The area currently known as Copco reservoir and the surrounding areas is part of a sacred landscape historically known to the tribe as Kikaceki that includes the spiritual center of the Shasta Indian Nation. The tribe has not had access to ceremonial areas since the construction of the dams.

We have become aware the Shasta Indian Nation has submitted a request for land transfer of certain portions of what are known as Parcel B lands (including land currently underwater and the parcel at Copco Village) to the State of California. The CEQA document prepared by the State Water Resource Control Board includes land return to the Shasta Indian Nation as a mitigation measure for the damage caused to Tribal Cultural Resources as a result of project activities. The tribe is traditionally and culturally affiliated to these lands, and we believe that returning ownership of certain Parcel B lands will be a positive and important step. It is also the County's view that Shasta Indian Nation will be good neighbors to the residents and other property owners in the area.

We support the Shasta Indian Nation's request to return ownership of Parcel B lands and respect the Shasta Indian Nation's focus throughout this process to protect these lands that are ancient, ceremonial, and sacred to them. Through the Assembly Bill 52 process, Siskiyou County has worked positively with the Shasta Indian Nation on matters such as the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, for example.

We understand and support their efforts for a successful land ownership transfer. This letter was approved by the Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors on November 7, 2023 by the following vote:

AYES: Supervisors Haupt, Kobseff, Criss, Ogren and Valenzuela

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:


Ed Valenzuela, Chair
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Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors

Brandon Criss

District 1

Ed Valenzuela

District 2

Michael Kobseff

District 3

Nancy Ogren

District 4

Ray Haupt

District 5