



COUNTY OF SISKIYOU

Board of Supervisors

P.O. Box 750 • 201 Fourth Street
Yreka, California 96097
www.co.siskiyou.ca.us

(530) 842-8005
FAX (530) 842-8013
Toll Free: 1-888-854-2000, ext. 8005

December 17, 2014

The Honorable Sally Jewell
Secretary, Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

Re: The Interior Department and the Klamath River

Dear Secretary Jewell:

A third Congress has now come and gone since the Klamath Basin Restoration Agreement was signed in the middle of the 111th Congress in 2010. The proposed federal authorizing legislation continues to be strongly opposed from a broad array of perspectives because of cost, uncertainty, and downside risk, among many other things.

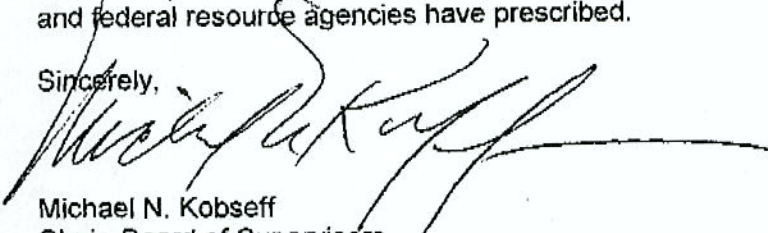
The Klamath Basin still needs real solutions. It does not need a Christmas tree assembled by a subset of self-interested stakeholders at the expense of others.

We will continue to support ongoing programs and measures that are benefitting both fisheries and water quality in the Klamath River watershed. However, it would be far better to have the Interior Department working alongside us rather than perpetuating the distraction of the KBRA.

The past two years of drought have belied the claims that the Klamath River dams provide no water storage benefit. In 2013, PacifiCorp offered to release water to augment fish flows in the Lower Klamath River. In 2014, water was actually released from storage to maintain minimum flows while leaving more water in Upper Klamath Lake for agriculture. Helicopters also relied upon the lakes to draw water to fight this summer's terrible forest fires.

We can only plead for a rethinking of the Interior Department's entrenched position. Alternatives to dam removal include off-stream storage, new fish passage technologies, and restoring historic water storage facilities in the Scott River watershed, along with many other feasible and affordable options. We stand ready to get back on track with the FERC relicensing of the PacifiCorp facilities and the implementation of all of the protection, mitigation, and enhancement measures the state and federal resource agencies have prescribed.

Sincerely,


Michael N. Kobseff
Chair, Board of Supervisors

cc Klamath County Board of Commissioners
The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
The Honorable Barbara Boxer
The Honorable Doug LaMalfa

Brandon Criss
District 1

Ed Valenzuela
District 2

Michael Kobseff
District 3

Grace Bennett
District 4

Marcia H. Armstrong
District 5