



September 23, 2022

Chairman Joe James
Yurok Tribe
190 Klamath Blvd.
Klamath, CA 95548

Gerry Hemmingsen, Chair
Del Norte County
981 H Street
Crescent City, CA 95531

Chairman Russell "Buster" Attebery
Karuk Tribe
P.O. Box 1016 Happy Camp, CA 96039

Virginia Bass, Chair
Humboldt County
825 5th Street
Eureka, CA 95501

Chairman Clayton Dumont
The Klamath Tribes
P.O. Box 436
Chiloquin, OR 97624

Janice A. Crowe, Chairwoman
Shasta Indian Nation
P.O. Box 195
Macdoel, CA 96058

Robert Burkybile, Chief
Modoc Nation
22 N. Eight Tribes Trail
Miami, OK 74354

Re: Proposed Klamath Watershed Governments Advisory Committee on Environmental Restoration and Community Stability

Dear Tribal and County Leaders:

Klamath County, Oregon, and Modoc and Siskiyou Counties, California, propose the creation of an advisory committee consisting of tribal governments and interested Klamath Watershed counties that would provide recommendations to federal agencies for prudent expenditure of environmental restoration dollars. We respectfully request that tribal and county governments in receipt of this communication respond by October 7, 2022, to indicate support or lack of support for such a committee. Assuming sufficient interest and support, we would work together to define the specific structure for deliberation and action.

Our three counties are concerned with the division among people and communities in the Klamath Watershed related to water and natural resources. These conditions are unwanted and unhealthy, and regrettably have defined the Klamath region in the perceptions of others. This can change, and an atmosphere of collaboration and mutual support is possible.

There is extraordinary opportunity. Congress has made significant financial resources available to the watershed, including \$162 million in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law for environmental

restoration that can foster collaboration and joint problem-solving in the interests of bringing stability to all watershed communities.

We fear, however, that the opportunity is being lost. We are aware of no specific goals for the use of the available resources. Unsurprisingly, then, there is no obvious plan, or plan for a plan, that would make the best use of all available resources to the best end for the watershed's resources and communities.

We believe Congressional leaders envisioned that the influx of resources would foster collaboration. That has not yet occurred, or at least has not occurred in a way that has involved parties of differing interest working together. This proposal and invitation seeks to change that.

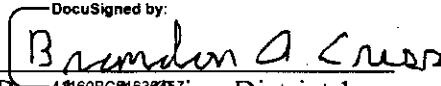
We recognize that there are processes being conducted by federal agencies or their consultants, or by other organizations, that have broad planning objectives. Those processes involve mixes of parties interested in fisheries, waterfowl, realizing proportionate regulatory burdens, or other pursuing other important objectives. We do not wish to discourage those activities. But to date, these processes have not fostered broad-based collaboration and none reflect the policy considerations important to all affected governments and parties. The work in those areas would inform the type of cooperative work that we envision.

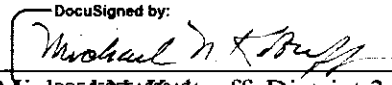
Although we propose that tribal and county governments make up the advisory committee, we also assume, and will encourage, input from other interested organizations and the processes noted above.

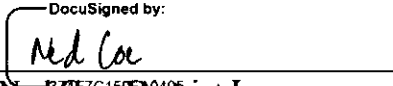
We recognize the potential challenges in developing a process for joint recommendations that respect all interests. Those important details are less significant at this time than is the fundamental question of whether there is a willingness to engage in this effort.

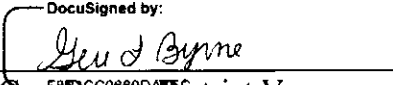
We respectfully request that the recipient tribal and county governments advise us by October 7, 2022, of your interest in pursuing this collaborative undertaking. Please provide responses to any of us, or to Elizabeth Nielsen at enielsen@co.siskiyou.ca.us or (530) 842-8012.

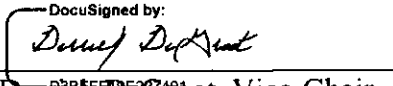
Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

Brandon A. Criss, District 1
Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors

DocuSigned by:

Michael R. Korbseff, District 3
Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors

DocuSigned by:

Ned Coe, District I
Modoc County Board of Supervisors

DocuSigned by:

Gen Bynne, District V
Modoc County Board of Supervisors

DocuSigned by:

Derrick DeGroot, Vice-Chair
Klamath County Commissioners