

## Thaler, Parker@Waterboards

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**From:** Jon Lopey <Jon.E.Lopey@siskiyousheriff.org>  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 31, 2016 8:14 PM  
**To:** Thaler, Parker@Waterboards  
**Subject:** RESPONSE TO DAM REMOVAL PROPOSAL

Dear Sir:

As the Sheriff-Coroner of Siskiyou County, I am very concerned about the proposed renewal of the Klamath Dam removal (KBRA) effort, based on public health and safety concerns. I have previously submitted similar comments and ask that you consider these points again:

I am writing this letter to object to the proposed removal of four dams on the Klamath River: Iron Gate, Copco 1, Copco 2 and JC Boyle Dams.

- The total cost of dam removal and implementation after removal exceeds \$1.9 billion. Irresponsible expenditures during a national economic crisis
- The science to support dam removal is based on unproven science and not on facts. Lacks of factual evidence that dam removals will restore salmon runs.
- Dam removal will have the effect of putting over several hundred farms and ranches out of permanent food production and destroy over one third (1/3) of the economic base of the County. Shasta Valley agricultural operations in 2006 (95.15 Million) amounted to 56% of total economic output for Siskiyou County.
- America needs clean renewable energy and food independence.
- The spotted owl was listed as endangered in 1995. We had closure of 18 mills and elimination of nearly 6, 0000 living wage jobs. We have never fully recovered and are still dependent on timber harvest subsidies to maintain our schools and roads. The rural school act is in jeopardy of not being renewed. We cannot allow destruction of our agricultural industry.
- In the last two years Siskiyou County has lost freight rail services and gold mining,
- 79% of Siskiyou County residents voted NO Dam removal on an Advisory measure on the November ballot 2010
- Dams bring in 300,000 to 1 million dollars a year in tax revenue to our county.
- Substantial increase in electricity cost as hydroelectric is the cheapest source of energy.
- Loss of habitat wildlife
- Loss of lake fisheries
- Loss of Irongate fish Hatchery
- Loss of recreation
- Loss of property value
- Loss of down river flood protection
- Loss of fire protection...the lake water is used to put out fires
- Irresponsible release of dam sediments down river by state and Federal agencies (21 million cubic yards of hazardous material is projected to kill all life in the river downstream).
- Loss of Shasta Nation burial grounds which will be uncovered which are behind the dams.
- Loss of sustained Minimum River flows
- Tunnel by pass alternative to the proposed Dam removal which will enhance and expand the Salmonids Habitat has been totally ignored by the dept. of the interior.

The Klamath Basin Restoration Agreement consist of 2 farming units, 3 tribes, 3 Federal Cabinet Secretaries, 3 Oregon State Depts., 1 CA stated Dept. and only 2 of the 9 basin counties, 8 environmental groups and 2 fishing associations. Siskiyou County was not representatives. These agreements were done in secret. It wasn't until the BOS learned of these agreements that public hearings were finally heard. The majority of Siskiyou County residents are not in favor of dam removal.

Most of all, Siskiyou County has lost considerable resources in the years following the decline of the timber industry. The Siskiyou County Sheriff's Office has lost approximately 30 percent of its resources within the last 20 years. We now have difficulty providing a full-range of services to the county's residents; moreover, we have some of the highest poverty rates and rates of child abuse, domestic abuse, elder abuse, drug abuse, and alcohol abuse in the state. Now we have hundreds of illegal marijuana grows on private and public land areas. We cannot afford any more damage to our fragile economy. This dam removal would create economic ruin in the region and further reduce my capacity to build a new jail and respond to the rising crime rates caused by Realignment and Prop 47.

Thank you for your consideration.

**Jon E. Lopey, Sheriff-Coroner**  
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