



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

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July 3, 2012

Charlie Hoppin, Chair
State Water Resources Control Board
P.O. Box 100
Sacramento, CA

Re: Support for Continued 401 Abeyance for Klamath Hydroelectric Project,
FERC Project No. 2082.

Dear Chair Hoppin:

As the appointed representatives on the Klamath Basin Coordinating Committee, we are writing to respectfully requests that the State Water Resources Control Board continues abeyance of the 401 certification for the Klamath Hydroelectric Project (FERC Project No. 2082) by way of resolution.

Humboldt County has a long history of involvement with Klamath and Trinity River issues. Humboldt County is home to many commercial and tribal fishermen who are dependent upon a healthy Klamath River and a productive salmon fishery. As such, Humboldt County participated in the Klamath Settlement negotiations, became a signatory to and has been a strong supporter of two landmark agreements, the Klamath Basin Restoration Agreement (KBRA) and the Klamath Hydroelectric Settlement Agreement (KHSa). The Humboldt County Board of Supervisors considered and unanimously authorized approval of the KBRA and KHSa agreements on February 9, 2010.

The agreements require Congressional authorization directing the Secretary of the Interior to implement the agreements, and federal legislation titled "*The Klamath Basin Economic Restoration Act of 2011*" was introduced into the respective congressional houses by Senator Merkley (S. 1851) and Congressman Thompson (H.R. 3398) on November 17, 2011.

Humboldt County recognizes the difficulties in moving this legislation through both Chambers of Congress, but as stakeholders living in the Klamath Basin we can no longer afford the environmental and economic costs and uncertainties associated with the status quo.

Since the 401 abeyance has been in place since the KHSA was signed in 2010, the parties have continued working to develop and refine the studies, analyses, plans and actions necessary for Klamath dam removal. Accordingly, Pacificorp has implemented the 21 interim implementation measures called for in the terms of the KHSA agreement, as detailed in Appendix C of the attached Klamath Basin Coordination Committee's 2012 annual report. Continuing the Klamath abeyance order will enable continued work on these interim measures, and so the parties may continue working with congressional representatives to hold the necessary hearings and eventual legislative passage.

We urge the State Water Resources Control Board to continue the abeyance of the water quality certification process to allow Congress to take necessary actions towards legislation passage. We remain steadfastly committed to successful implementation of the KHSA, and believe continued abeyance of the California Section 401 Clean Water Act water quality certification process is critical to the success of the KHSA.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding our position, please contact Hank Seemann (hseemann@co.humboldt.ca.us) or Jill Duffy (jduffy@co.humboldt.ca.us) at (707) 445-7741 and we will be happy to detail the beneficial effects that these agreements will provide for Humboldt County.

Sincerely,



Ryan Sundberg, Vice Chair
Humboldt County Board of Supervisors
Klamath Basin Coordinating Committee Member



Mark Lovelace, 3rd District Supervisor
Humboldt County Board of Supervisors
Klamath Basin Coordinating Committee Alternate Member

RS/ML:kh

cc: Congressman Thompson,
Senator Merkley
Senator Wyden