



COUNTY OF SISKIYOU

Board of Supervisors

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May 15, 2012

The Honorable Wally Herger
242 Cannon HOB
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Request for Congressional hearing on scientific integrity and the Secretarial Determination regarding the Klamath River dams

Dear Congressmen Herger:

From very early on, Siskiyou County has had serious concern that a predetermined outcome would skew the commitment to scientific integrity and transparency promised for the decision-making process on the Klamath River dams. As time wore on, events confirmed that our initial fears were more than justified. Your office is in receipt of several letters that the Board of Supervisors has sent to Secretary Salazar and various federal officials to this effect.

Recently, a former BLM employee charged with overseeing scientific integrity for the Secretarial Determination has filed a grievance under federal "whistleblower" statutes. Dr. Paul Houser, formerly Science Advisor for the BLM, has made serious allegations that appear to support our repeated entreaties to federal agencies and officials with regard to scientific misconduct.

We feel that the time has come for Congress to investigate the scientific integrity and fiscal impropriety of the Secretarial Determination process, the Klamath Basin Restoration Agreement and other federal actions attendant to the overall management of the Klamath River watershed. The following are the key points demanding your scrutiny:

- Tens of millions of dollars have already been spent with the likelihood of spending hundreds of millions more, perhaps even approaching \$2 billion.
- The acknowledged uncertainty regarding the potential for an environmental disaster associated with the release of nearly 100 years of accumulated sediment behind the dams.
- The decommissioning of renewable hydropower at a time when America is struggling to attain energy independence.

- The overwhelming local public opposition to the manner in which this entire affair has been conducted.
- All of this is happening in the face of incontrovertible documentation that there is no compelling evidence leading to a reasonable likelihood that salmonid recovery will be assured or even significantly enhanced in justifiable proportion to the costs of this experiment.

We respectfully request that you seek a Congressional field hearing in proximity to the dams whose fate is at stake via this politically perturbed process.

Sincerely,



Grace Bennett, Chair
Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors

cc: Sen. Diane Feinstein; Sen. Barbara Boxer