State of California, County of Siskiyou Board of Supervisors Minutes, March 19, 2024

The Honorable Board of Supervisors of Siskiyou County, California, met in regular session this 19th day of March 2024; there being present Supervisors Brandon Criss, Ed Valenzuela, Michael N. Kobseff, Nancy Ogren and Ray A. Haupt, County Administrator Angela Davis, County Counsel Natalie E. Reed and County Clerk and ex-Officio Clerk of the Board of Supervisors Laura Bynum by Deputy County Clerk Wendy Winningham.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Kobseff. Pursuant to AB23, the Clerk announced that the Board members receive no additional compensation for sitting as members of the Siskiyou County Flood Control and Water Conservation District. Supervisor Valenzuela led in the salute to the flag of the United States of America.

Invocation - Siskiyou County Sheriff Chaplain Keith Bradley provided an invocation.

Presentations from the Public

In Home Supportive Services (IHSS) Union representatives Clayton Raposa and Jason Hibbitts appeared before the Board, speaking in support of ongoing efforts to work with the County toward benefits for IHSS workers.

In Home Supportive Services (IHSS) worker Betty Goodwin appeared before the Board, requesting assistance for IHSS workers countywide.

Hornbrook resident Lindsay Rhea appeared before the Board and thanked the Board for supporting those impacted by the Klamath Dam removal efforts.

Yreka resident Shelly Jesperson appeared before the Board, sharing concerns regarding the negative impacts along the Klamath River associated with Klamath Dam removal activities.

Audience member Nicholas Reynolds appeared before the Board and thanked the Board for supporting those impacted by the Klamath Dam removal efforts.

Copco resident William Simpson appeared before the Board, voicing concerns regarding the various negative impacts associated with Klamath Dam removal activities.

Copco resident Chrissie Reynolds appeared before the Board, voicing concerns regarding the impact of Klamath Dam removal activities on those residents of Copco and down the Klamath.

Participation in presentations from the public by various members of the public was provided via ZOOM/teleconference phone.

Caller Francis Mendoza spoke in opposition to a proposed state of emergency related to Klamath River water quality, advising that the current condition of the River was temporary and improving daily.

Caller Regina Chichizola with Save California's Salmon spoke in opposition to a proposed state of emergency proclamation related to Klamath River water quality, advising that the River's condition was improving daily.

Caller Curt Lange with the Nor Cal Native Fish Society spoke in opposition to a proposed state of emergency proclamation related to Klamath River water quality and in support of the benefits associated with removing four dams from the Klamath River.

Caller Holly Hansard voiced concerns regarding the negative impacts associated with the Klamath Dam removal activities.

Caller Craig Tucker with the Karuk Tribe Natural Resources spoke in opposition to a proposed state of emergency proclamation related to Klamath River water quality and in support of the benefits associated with removing four dams from the Klamath River.

Continued...

Presentations from the Public – *(continued)*

Caller Georgina Quinn spoke in opposition to a proposed state of emergency, advising that the River's condition was improving daily.

Caller Allegra Brucker Quinn spoke in opposition to a proposed state of emergency, advising that the River's condition was improving daily.

Caller Karena Greenberg Quinn spoke in opposition to a proposed state of emergency, advising that the River's condition was improving daily.

Caller Amber Jameson Quinn spoke in opposition to a proposed state of emergency, advising that the River's condition was improving daily.

Copco resident Rick Dowdy appeared before the Board, speaking in support of the County declaring an emergency related to the Klamath River water quality and removal of the dams.

Local river guide Albert Kutzkey appeared before the Board, sharing concerns regarding the condition of the Klamath River and speaking in support of the County declaring an emergency related to the Klamath River water quality.

Consent Agenda – Approved.

At Chair Kobseff's request, item 5B, County Administration's letter to California State Assembly member Jim Wood expressing support for Assembly Bill (AB) 2902 and item 5G, Health and Human Services - Social Services' Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention Program, Round 5 Joint Application and Regional Coordination Memorandum of Understanding, were pulled from the consent agenda for discussion.

It was moved by Supervisor Valenzuela, seconded by Supervisor Criss and carried, following a roll call vote with Supervisors Haupt, Valenzuela, Criss, Ogren and Kobseff voting YES, that the following consent agenda is approved, and the Chair and/or clerk authorized to execute/record any necessary documents:

County Administration

Approve the Addendum to contract with Occu-Med, Corporation and authorize Chair to sign.

County Administration - Personnel

Adopt adopt the Resolution P 24-49 amending the Siskiyou County Salary Schedule and Position Allocation List for positions in County service effective March 31, 2024.

General Services - Airports

Authorize the Chair to execute the Hangar Rental Agreement between the County of Siskiyou and Dale Bush for the term of April 1, 2023 through March 31, 2028.

Health and Human Services - Behavioral Health Division

Approve and authorize the Chair to sign the agreements for Services between Siskiyou County Health & Human Services Agency, Behavioral Health Division, and California Mental Health Services Authority (CalMHSA) for the term commencing April 1, 2023 through March 31, 2027.

Health and Human Services - Public Health Division

Approve and authorize the Chair to sign the Second Addendum to the Medical Professional Services Contract between Siskiyou County Health and Human Services Agency – Public Health Division and Catherine Olivolo for the term of the contract through June 30, 2026, in the amount NTE \$200,000.

Library

Approve and sign Novation agreement between the Imperial County Board of Education and the Siskiyou County Library ending June 30, 2024.

Transfer of Funds - Solid Waste Disposal - \$192,777. Resolution 24-50 adopted.

County Administration - Approve letter to California State Assembly member Jim Wood expressing support for Assembly Bill (AB) 2902 (Wood) - Organic Waste: Reduction Regulations; Exemptions. Approved.

This item was pulled from the consent agenda at Chair Kobseff's request.

Deputy County Administrator Elizabeth Nielsen appeared before the Board, submitting and summarizing a revised letter to California State Assembly member Jim Wood expressing support for Assembly Bill (AB) 2902.

Following discussion between members of the Board and Ms. Nielsen regarding the organic waste diversion regulations under CalRecycle's Senate Bill (SB) 1383, the request for letters of support for AB 2902 from the Rural Counties of California (RCRC) and the flexibility that AB 2902 could provide to rural counties, it was moved by Supervisor Kobseff, seconded by Supervisor Criss and carried, following a roll call vote with Supervisors Haupt, Valenzuela, Criss, Ogren and Kobseff voting YES, to approve the letter in support of AB 2902, as amended and authorize the Chair to sign.

Health and Human Services - Social Services - Approve Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention Program, Round 5 Joint Application and Regional Coordination Memorandum of Understanding between Siskiyou County and other entities specified in the MOU and grant application with NorCal Continuum of Care, for a term ending October 1, 2028. Approved.

This item was pulled from the consent agenda at Supervisor Kobseff's request.

Health and Human Services Agency Director Sarah Collard and Project Coordinator Maddelyn Bryan appeared before the Board.

Ms. Bryan provided an overview of the request, including the Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention Program grant and the Joint Application and Regional Coordination Memorandum Of Understanding for approximately \$600,000 in grant funding proposed to be split between four funding categories to address homelessness.

Supervisor Kobseff voiced concerns regarding proposed expansion of an existing program and spoke in opposition to the request.

It was moved by Supervisor Valenzuela, seconded by Supervisor Ogren and carried, following a roll call vote with Supervisors Valenzuela, Criss and Ogren voting YES and Supervisors Haupt and Kobseff voting NO, to approve, and authorize the Chair to execute, the MOU and Regionally Coordinated Homelessness Action Plan. Authorize HHSA to participate in the preparation and submittal of the joint HHAP-5 grant application. If awarded funds, authorize the County Administrator or Designee to receive and execute the grant agreement and related documents. Authorize the Auditor to appropriate the budget and set expenditures.

Public Requests - First 5 Siskiyou Children and Families Commission - Discussion, direction and possible action re Siskiyou Child Abuse Prevention Council Collaborative Proclamation proclaiming April 2024 as Child Abuse Prevention and Sexual Assault Awareness Month and April 6-12, 2024 as the Week of the Young Child. Proclamation adopted and presented.

First 5 Siskiyou Children and Families Commission Executive Director Karen Pautz and Siskiyou Domestic Violence and Crisis Center Executive Director Carla Charraga appeared before the Board and provided an overview of the Collaborative Proclamation associated with Child Abuse Prevention and Sexual Assault Awareness month in April. In addition, Ms. Pautz advised that the Weed of the Young Child was also in the Proclamation.

Supervisor Kobseff read the Proclamation into the record.

It was moved by Supervisor Valenzuela, seconded by Supervisor Haupt and carried, following a roll call vote with Supervisors Haupt, Valenzuela, Criss, Ogren and Kobseff voting YES, to sign and adopt the Child Abuse Proclamation.

Members of the Board signed the Proclamation and presented it to Ms. Pautz and Ms. Charraga.

General Services – Airports - Presentation of an update re all Siskiyou County Airport activities since March 12, 2024. Presentation only.

General Services Director Joy Hall appeared before the Board and provided an update regarding the Happy Camp Airport, advising that she had yet to hear back from the Forest Service with regard to development of an abandonment plan for the facility. Additionally, Ms. Hall advised of seeking information from the Forest Service regarding their contract for use of the Scott Valley Airport. Ms. Hall provided an update regarding work needed at the Siskiyou County Airport, including crack sealing and an assessment of the facility's bathrooms. Ms. Hall provided an update regarding the Weed Airport, including a recent walk-through/tour of the facility with the consultant team and construction team regarding work to be done and an associated meeting with pilots regarding flying and parking at other facilities during airport construction.

Supervisor Kobseff advised of attending the consultant and construction walk through at the Weed Airport.

County Administration - Discussion, direction and possible action re Resolution proclaiming a local emergency and requesting that the Governor proclaim a State of Emergency (impacts resulting from Lower Klamath Dam removal). Continued to March 26, 2024.

Deputy County Administrator Elizabeth Nielsen provided an overview of the request to adopt a Resolution proclaiming a state of emergency related to Klamath River water quality following dam removal activities. Ms. Nielsen summarized information provided in a Memorandum developed by the County's consultant Chelsea Murphy with CKM Environmental, including results of the County Environmental Health Division's water sampling from January and February 2024. Ms. Nielsen advised that the results indicated levels above the Klamath River water baseline and the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) drinking water standards for heavy metals and that groundwater well water was not sampled/tested. Ms. Nielsen additionally advised that Environmental Health would be sampling/testing on a quarterly basis. Ms. Nielsen further advised that the County's consultant Ms. Murphy requested additional sampling/testing by the Klamath River Renewal Corporation (KRRC) which at first was denied. Ms. Nielsen read an email from KRRC Executive Director Mark Bransom into the record in which Mr. Bransom proposed that the KRRC would consult with water quality experts and the County to verify sampling locations, testing methods and constituents to analyze prior to conducting additional water quality sampling/testing work.

KRRC Public Information Officer Ren Brownell appeared before the Board, advising that the KRRC was monitoring the Klamath water quality not only for the health of aquatic species but for the protection of human health as well. Ms. Brownell further advised that the KRRC's water monitoring program was approved by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and the states of California and Oregon, that the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and California authorized the sediment release in permitting decisions and that documents pertaining to that permitting was provided to County staff. Ms. Brownell advised that the KRRC has mitigated impacts to public water systems (KRRC has an agreement with the Caltrans Collier Rest Stop to provide drinking water), that there are no anticipated impacts to groundwater wells and that the affects of the Klamath Dam removal activities was expected to diminish over time.

Lengthy discussion followed between members of the Board, Ms. Brownell and Ms. Nielsen regarding the need for information regarding KRRC's anticipated quantity/timing of additional water monitoring, the possible need for testing of groundwater wells as sediment settles, the alternative drinking water source for the Caltrans Collier Rest Stop, the California State Water Resources Control Board's determination of no anticipated impacts to groundwater wells due to the project activities, the need to determine water quality baseline data and to perform multiple water sampling/testing.

Audience member Andrew Marks appeared before the Board, speaking in favor of the potential benefits associated with dam removal and in opposition to the proposed emergency declaration.

Audience member and local river guide Chuck Volkhauser appeared before the Board, speaking in opposition to approving the emergency declaration and in support of ongoing efforts to restore the Klamath River. Ms. Volkhauser advised that there is additional sediment in the river due to recent wildfires.

Continued...

County Administration – (continued)

In response to Supervisor Kobseff, Office of Emergency Services Director Bryan Schenone advised that an emergency proclamation was adopted for the impacts associated with sediment spilling into the river from the McKinney Fire burn scar and summarized current and future actions to address the issue.

Copco resident Linda Ebert appeared before the Board, voicing concerns regarding the need to monitor air quality as the sediment remaining in the former lakebed dries and toxins are potentially released into the air.

Hornbrook resident Pat Miller appeared before the Board, voicing concerns regarding various negative impacts associated with the water release and condition of the former lakebed (i.e. loss of local economy, health impacts, etc.).

Copco resident Chrissie Reynolds appeared before the Board, voicing concerns regarding the potential negative impacts associated with breaching of the local dams and release of the water behind them, including air quality when the sediment dries, access to clean drinking water as groundwater wells have dried up, residents impacted by blasting activities, etc.

Local Irongate rancher William Simpson appeared before the Board, sharing concerns regarding the potential for toxic substances to be released from the sediment in the lakebeds and in the river as the sediment dries and is carried into the river. Mr. Simpson further voiced concerns that similar dam removal activities/impacts occurred at the Condit Dam in Washington state.

Local resident James Leach appeared before the Board, presenting and summarizing a seven-page report from Nielson Research Corporation in which sediment collected from his property along the Klamath River. Mr. Leach voiced concerns regarding the potential negative impacts associated with the sediment/sludge as it dries, advising that the report analysis indicated higher levels of various heavy metals in the sediment.

California Trout representative Curtis Knight appeared before the Board, voiced opposition to the proposed emergency declaration, recommending patience as the river conditions were approving daily.

Participation in this item by members of the public was provided via ZOOM/teleconference phone.

Caller Amber Jameson with Environmental Protection Information Center (EPIC) spoke in opposition to the proposed emergency declaration, and in support of the anticipated increase in fish populations as the river conditions improve. Ms. Jameson advised that the hatchery fish released into the river would be released below the dam locations in the future.

Caller Angelina Cook with California Sportfishing Protection Alliance spoke in support of the benefits associated with dam removal and in opposition to the proposed emergency declaration. Ms. Cook spoke in support of the efforts being made to restore the river to benefit Coho and Chinook salmon recovery.

In response to Supervisor Kobseff, Ms. Nielsen advised that, should the emergency declaration be approved, it would be forwarded to the Governor requesting a state of emergency declaration and any assistance the State could provide.

Mr. Schenone clarified that the emergency declaration would not provide assistance to individuals but to local government infrastructure which in turn could benefit the general public.

Discussion followed between members of the Board and Mr. Schenone regarding the status of clean drinking water tanks provided to Copco residents and the emergency declaration criteria that would require testing prior to declaring an emergency.

Deputy County Clerk Wendy Winningham advised that the Clerk's Office and the Board received correspondence related to the emergency proclamation from Scott Harding requesting that an emergency not be declared.

Supervisor Haupt spoke in support of the emergency declaration, advising that the County needs to address the impacts following the release of water from behind the dams in order to protect the health and safety of residents living along the former lakes and the river. Supervisor Haupt spoke in support of any efforts that would encourage engagement of State agencies to address those impacts.

Continued...

County Administration – (continued)

Supervisor Criss spoke in support of the declaration and in support of advocating for the protection of water for agricultural purposes which could be negatively impacted by the conditions in the river and potential loss of returning fish populations. Supervisor Criss spoke in support of the State Water Board testing the quality of the water for drinking and beneficial uses.

Supervisor Valenzuela suggested that the proposed emergency declaration be delayed to allow gathering additional information and baseline data, including air and drinking water quality, before considering adopting the proclamation.

In response to Supervisor Ogren regarding the data needed to secure funding through an emergency declaration, Mr. Schenone advised that a threshold for estimated damages would need to be met and shared concerns that the threshold could be quite high. Mr. Schenone additionally advised that if the County's capacity for water testing, for example, was exceeded, the County could request assistance through a declaration.

Supervisor Ogren voiced concerns that an emergency declaration may not provide funding or assistance the County might need and that the County does not have the resources necessary to perform sufficient testing and monitoring of water quality issues. Supervisor Ogren additionally shared concerns for potential air and water quality impacts following dam removal activities and possible negative impacts to the drinking water at the Caltrans Collier Rest Stop. Supervisor Ogren spoke in support of the proposed emergency declaration.

Brief discussion followed between Supervisor Haupt and Mr. Schenone regarding the potential impact of heavy metals in the sediment and river water on cattle and other animals (i.e. impacts to critical infrastructure related to food production).

Supervisor Kobseff advised that the KRRC offered to do additional sampling/testing of water for heavy metals and voiced concerns that the County requested assistance from the State to mitigate the negative impacts being seen following dam removal activities. Supervisor Kobseff requested that consideration of a Memorandum of Understanding with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to address possible fish population impacts (i.e. fish/smolts dying due to Klamath River conditions) to Shasta and Scott Valley irrigators be brought back at the Board's special meeting on March 26, 2024 and recommended that this item be continued to the special Board meeting for further consideration.

Supervisor Valenzuela suggested that the emergency declaration include potential impacts to air quality due to the drying sludge/sediment in the river water and former lakebeds, sharing concerns that the County needs to get the word out to a larger audience as to the negative impacts being seen following the release of the water behind the dams. Additionally, Supervisor Valenzuela suggested development of a letter to the Department of Water Resources (DWR) to request funding for sampling/testing water wells.

Discussion followed between members of the Board, Ms. Nielsen and Mr. Schenone regarding issues needing to be address at the upcoming special Board meeting (i.e. monthly water well testing, work on roads/bridges at Copco, the status of possibly impacted groundwater wells), information from constituents that the County received regarding medical testing for heavy metals, the need for information regarding State regulations concerning private water well testing, the efforts that were made to develop the proposed emergency declaration, the need for research into possible air quality issues around the Condit Dam project, and concerns regarding the lack of County notification concerning the length of time for the sediment to remain in the River.

Ms. Nielsen advised that she would contact various entities requested during the discussion before the special meeting on March 26, 2024.

It was moved by Supervisor Haupt to approve and adopt the proclamation of a local state of emergency related to impacts resulting from Lower Klamath Dam Removal and Klamath River water quality and authorize the Chair to sign.

The motion died for lack of a second.

Continued...

County Administration – (continued)

It was moved by Supervisor Kobseff, seconded by Supervisor Ogren and carried, following a roll call vote with Supervisors Criss, Ogren and Kobseff voting YES and Supervisors Haupt and Valenzuela voting NO to direct staff to bring this item back before the Board on March 26th, along with additional information requested during discussion.

Minute Approval - February 13 and 20, 2024. Approved.

It was moved by Supervisor Criss, seconded by Supervisor Valenzuela and carried, following a roll call vote with Supervisors Haupt, Valenzuela, Criss, Ogren and Kobseff voting YES, to approve the February 13, 2024 minutes with the following additions:

February 13, 2024, Volume 79, page 13

Public Presentations - Klamath River Renewal Corporation - Presentation of an update re Klamath Dam removal activities, coordination with the public and the County, and activities related to river conditions, residential well activities and wildlife issues. Presentation and discussion only.

Corrected from:

Mr. Bransom advised that homes in the area would be monitored for slope stability and summarized the road repair that was done at Mile Marker 13 (due to the sloughing of the slope after drawdown). Mr. Bransom further summarized the efforts being made to address two groundwater wells that have gone dry, ongoing monitoring of other local wells and efforts to determine short- and long-term solutions. Mr. Bransom provided an overview of the Sediment Deposit Remediation Plan, advising that sediment downstream would be monitored, and possibly remediated for the next five years. Mr. Bransom briefly summarized the water quality and sediment testing that would be done on a monthly basis with reports sent to regulators.

Corrected to:

Mr. Bransom advised that homes in the area would be monitored for slope stability and summarized the road repair that was done at Mile Marker 13 (due to the sloughing of the slope after drawdown). Mr. Bransom further summarized the efforts being made to address two groundwater wells that have gone dry, ongoing monitoring of other local wells and efforts to determine short- and long-term solutions. *Mr. Bransom advised that the co-licensees would put in place long-term solutions for those groundwater wells that have been impacted by the project activities.* Mr. Bransom provided an overview of the Sediment Deposit Remediation Plan, advising that sediment downstream would be monitored, and possibly remediated for the next five years. Mr. Bransom briefly summarized the water quality and sediment testing that would be done on a monthly basis with reports sent to regulators.

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Add the following paragraph after the fourth paragraph on page 14:

In response to Supervisor Criss regarding efforts to keep residents 'whole' with regard to groundwater wells that have gone or will go dry, Mr. Bransom advised that, as he stated earlier in his presentation, the colicensees would put in place long-term solutions for those impacted groundwater wells.

It was moved by Supervisor Valenzuela, seconded by Supervisor Haupt and carried, following a roll call vote with Supervisors Haupt, Valenzuela, Criss and Ogren voting YES and Supervisor Kobseff ABSTAINING to approve the February 20, 2024 minutes as presented.

Appointments - County Clerk - Appointment of one member to the scheduled vacancy on the Grenada Sanitation District, for a term ending December 5, 2025. No action was taken.

Deputy County Clerk Wendy Winningham provided an overview of the request, advising that March 19, 2024 was the only date on which the Board of Supervisors could appoint to fill one vacancy on the Grenada Sanitation District. Ms. Winningham advised that neither the District nor the Clerk's Office received any letters of interest in filling the vacant position.

No action was taken.

Public Hearings - Community Development – Planning - Continued public hearing for the second reading of an Ordinance amending Title 10 Chapter 6 of the Siskiyou County Code by adding Article 61 "Vacation Rentals" and repealing subsection (h) of Section 10-6.1502 of the Siskiyou County Code regarding vacation rentals. Ordinance 24-04 adopted.

Supervisor Criss recused himself from consideration of this item and left the Board Chambers.

This was the time set for a continued public hearing for the second reading of an Ordinance amending Title 10 Chapter 6 of the Siskiyou County Code by adding Article 61 "Vacation Rentals" and repealing subsection (h) of Section 10-6.1502 of the Siskiyou County Code regarding vacation rentals, having been introduced on February 20, 2024.

Planning Director Hailey Lang appeared before the Board and provided a brief overview of the request. Ms. Lang submitted a corrected version of the Ordinance, advising that an amendment that was approved during the first reading was inadvertently left out of the version of the Ordinance provided in the agenda item. Ms. Lang read into the record the correct language on page 6 of the Ordinance.

In response to Chair Kobseff, Deputy County Clerk Wendy Winningham advised that the Clerk's Office had not received additional correspondence related to this item.

There being no public comments, the public hearing was declared closed.

It was moved by Supervisor Valenzuela and seconded by Supervisor Ogren to introduce, waive and approve the second reading of an ordinance amending Title 10 Chapter 5 of the Siskiyou County Code by Adding Article 61 "Vacation Rentals"; and determine the ordinance exempt from CEQA pursuant to Section 15061(b)(3) and Section 15301 of the CEQA guidelines. Following a roll call vote with Supervisors Haupt, Valenzuela, Ogren and Kobseff voting YES and Supervisor Criss RECUSED, the motion to adopt Ordinance 24-04 carried.

Supervisor Criss returned to the Board Chambers.

Board and Staff Reports

Supervisor Valenzuela advised of attending a California State Association of Counties (CSAC) Leadership class in Humboldt County.

Supervisor Haupt advised that he could provide contact information for the Condit Dam Community Health Director is needed.

Supervisor Ogren advised of her attendance at a Rural Counties of California (RCRC) meeting in Sacramento, and the local Hospice Art Auction event.

Supervisor Criss reported on attendance at an OreCal RC&D meeting, including discussion regarding the Tulelake Meals on Wheels service.

Supervisor Kobseff advised of his attendance at a Rural Counties of California (RCRC) meeting in Sacramento, and that he chaired the Environmental Services Joint Powers Authority (ESJPA) meeting provided via ZOOM.

Closed Session - Conference with legal counsel, existing litigation pursuant to Government Code §54956.9(a), three cases, commenced at 12:26 p.m., concluded at 12:47 p.m., with no action taken.

Report On Closed Session

County Counsel Natalie E. Reed announced that closed session concluded at 12:47 p.m., with no reportable action taken.

adjourned.	before the Board of Supervisors, the meeting wa
Attest: Laura Bynum, County Clerk	Michael N. Kobseff, Chair
By: Deputy	