

DRAFT LETTER TO FERC

May 15, 2019

Chairman Kevin J. McIntyre
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street., NE
Washington, DC 20426

Re: Project Nos. 2082-062 and 14803-000

Dear Chairman McIntyre,

The Klamath County Board of Commissioners has a long history of opposing the removal of the 4 Klamath River dams. We wish to reaffirm that we are standing united with Siskiyou and Jackson Counties in opposition to the proposed dam removal. All 3 Counties have common interests and benefits from retaining these dams.

These dams provide critical water for wildfire suppression that cannot be replaced. This has been evidenced in the recent horrendous wildfire seasons in northern California and southern Oregon.

Area recreational activities include fishing, white water rafting, hiking, camping, boating and swimming.

The reservoirs behind these dams can supply water for late season “flushing flows”, required in the current Biological Opinion. Without these dams, the flows would be drawn out of Klamath Lake’s irrigation pool. This would directly reduce water availability for Klamath Reclamation Project irrigators.

Flood control has been a very important side benefit of the 4 dams.

Regulating flows is critical. It has been estimated that in a major flood event, downstream residents would have a 9 hour warning.

Iron Gate Hatchery, was built specifically for “mitigation purposes,” when the dams were originally constructed. The hatchery infuses nearly 5 million salmon smolts into the Klamath River each year. With dam removal, this successful hatchery will no longer exist.

There are approximately 22 million cubic yards of sediment behind these 4 dams. The majority of it will be flushed down the river with obvious catastrophic consequences.

80 % of the voters in Siskiyou County voted against the dam removal effort. In Klamath County, 72% of voted against dam removal. Both of these were Advisory Ballot Measures. Jackson County Board of Commissioners report many of their citizens are also opposed to the Klamath dam removal effort.

Even many of the dam removal supporters call the Klamath Dam Removal the “Grand Experiment”.

We ask that you reject this disaster in the making.

Thank you for your consideration,