

TRI-COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING
LASSEN, MODOC AND PLUMAS COUNTIES
MAY 17, 1995

The Lassen, Modoc and Plumas County Boards of Supervisors convene in a Special Joint Study Session Wednesday, May 17, 1995 at 10:14 a.m. at the Lassen County Fairgrounds in Susanville.

Modoc County Chair Ron McIntyre calls the third Tri-Counties meeting to order and following the flag salute offers the invocation.

Present at the Special Joint Study Session are host Modoc County Supervisors Joe Colt, Nancy Huffman and Ron McIntyre; Plumas County Supervisors Fran Roudebush, Robert Meacher, Paul Simpson, Bill Coates, and Phillip Bresciani; Lassen County Supervisor Jim Chapman; Modoc County CAO Mike Maxwell, Plumas County CAO Jim Stretch, Lassen County CAO Bill Bixby, and Modoc County Clerk Pro Tem Becky Guess.

Modoc County Chair McIntyre asks for matters initiated by the public. There being none, he proceeds to the first item on the agenda.

FORMATION OF SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY FOR MODOC, LASSEN AND PLUMAS COUNTIES
Lassen CAO Bill Bixby presents the Boards with a proposal and discusses the various options available to the Boards on the structure and formation of a Tri-County Solid Waste Authority. A general discussion follows and it is decided that the matter be discussed by the Public Works Directors of the three counties, the CAO's and the individual Boards.

UPDATE ON SOLID WASTE/RECYCLING JPA

Marsha Basque, Executive Director of RCRC addresses the Boards and encourages them to join with their organization taking advantage of their experience and existing programs. They now represent 15 counties and recently received approval of a \$4000 Used Oil Grant for each of these counties from the Integrated Waste Management Board.

Bill Schultz, also from RCRC, encourages the Boards that even if they do form a Tri-County Solid Waste Authority to join with RCRC. Lassen County Supervisor Chapman thinks a study is warranted on this suggestion.

RCRC HEALTHCARE JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY

Marsha Basque again addresses the Boards providing them with a study by Benefit Risk Management Services, a firm that manages medical care services provided in county jails. She recommends using BRMS; they use preferred provider contracts and pool groups together offering significant savings. Their fee is \$.25 for every \$1.00 saved. If they do not save you money, there is no fee.

Bill Schultz also addresses the Boards and adds that there are other firms that do the same thing BRMS does. They also provide workers compensation insurance, general liability insurance and anything to do with health care in the county.

BLM EAST LASSEN PLAN UPDATE

There being no BLM official to present the update, Modoc County CAO Maxwell states that the project has been hindered from moving forward because the Dept. of Fish and Game will not participate. Lassen County Supervisor Chapman says that BLM and DFG need to start working together for the public's best interest. Modoc Chair McIntyre states he's heard that BLM and DFG want to know what "the bottom line" of the plan is before they participate.

SIERRA NEVADA ECOSYSTEM PROJECT UPDATE

Plumas County Supervisors Coates addresses the Boards. Previously they were very concerned with the Clinton Administration's selection of USFS scientists being appointed to study the ecosystem because they were the same ones used in Oregon who implemented the "lock out" plan, that basically said keep everyone out and all will be okay, and no cutting of old growth. However, the extreme fire danger, exhibited last summer, is changing the opinion of the scientists.

Plumas County Supervisor Meacher adds that the hearing process on the project will be completed by December 1995 and submitted to congress. He is encouraged that SNEP committees are putting a large emphasis on social impact. He asks everyone to follow the time table for public input.

ENDANGERED SPECIES HEARING UPDATE

Plumas Supervisor Coates updates the Boards saying that, thanks to a major contributor threatening to withhold funds unless the Act was rewritten, it looks like changes are going to be made. Hearings are being held. Modoc Supervisor Huffman adds at the Fresno meeting she felt the first hope that the Act will be changed. A general discussion follows regarding the extreme power of the EPA and the "asphalt mentality" of urban areas where they have ruined their environment. Rural areas must attend the hearings to represent and educate the urban populations of California.

CALIFORNIA FORESTRY ASSOCIATION BOMBING

A change of Agenda to Item 8 is called. Plumas Supervisor Coates discusses the bombing incident in Sacramento that claimed the life of former Chester resident Gil Murray. He says the FBI has asked everyone to check their files for angry letters relating to forestry issues that may provide a lead as to the identity of the unabomber. Information regarding a package opening process is being distributed to all public agencies.

Lunch break is called at 11:55 a.m. A working lunch will be held and resumes at 12:10 p.m.

Tad Mason, Registered Professional Forester, of Pacific Wood Fuels Co., speaks to the Boards on a non agenda matter. He requests that the Boards support his company's efforts of natural forest fuels management through biomass harvesting by contacting elected officials asking them to increase funding for fuel hazard reduction in Region 5 (California). He asks each County to FAX the White House supporting the Recision Bill known as the Taylor Salvage Amendment because of the time restraints.

Plumas Supervisor Coates suggests that their CAO's work with Tad to draft a letter to that effect for the three counties.

FOREST SERVICE CASPO EIS

Linda Bloom and Susan Baremore address the Boards. They have contracted with Plumas Corp. as consultants to the Quincy Library Group to review and evaluate the CASPO EIS and compile and create a detailed review for presentation to the USFS. The Boards request copies of the final document be sent to them, their CAO's and planning directors. Susan and Linda would the Counties to send detailed comments to the USFS addressing such issues as the management of the Sierras not be "blanketed" but dealt with sub-regionally and that they deal with fire issues.

After a 10 minute break the Boards agree to drop Agenda Item 11, TRI COUNTY HEALTH DEPT. SERVICES and that they already covered Item 14.

WATERSHED PROTECTION/ENHANCEMENT MITIGATION FEE

Plumas Supervisor Meacher introduces Leah Wills from Plumas Corp. to address Boards. She has been attending water rights hearings and wants the Boards to know that historically there is no definition of water rights in California; that there are Bay-Delta hearings now being held that will define these rights and the Tri-Counties, each of whom have "County of Origin" water rights should intervene in the process. She says the south wants our water and money is no object. She spoke of investing in the health of our forests, such as biomass harvesting, will enhance our watershed, creating new water - "water-banking." The Boards agree to help keep each other informed of the hearings.

SENATOR LOCKYER'S PROPOSED CORRECTION REALIGNMENT SB760

Plumas CAO Jim Stretch addresses the Boards. States that under the proposed amendment counties will assume sentences of State prisoners of one year or less; supposedly revenue neutral. The counties are to receive additional sales tax revenues in return. He is wary of State "promises" because of past experience and encourages Boards that, if they support the amendment, to ask up front for the right to opt-out and not participate in the program, or if they do, that the inmates be governed by County rules, not State, etc.

Bruce Mix, Modoc County Sheriff, address the Boards and voices similar concern. Recommends the Boards stay on top of this proposal and communicate their concerns to CSAC and Sacramento to see what we can get them to agree to up front.

Back to Agenda Item 10 - COORDINATION OF ORDINANCES FOR HOME RULE IN RURAL COUNTIES

Lassen Supervisor Loubet being absent, Plumas Supervisor Simpson addresses the issue saying they have been working on this for about a year trying to get federal and state agencies to develop working communication with counties before implementation of programs - increased local control. Modoc Supervisor Colt states that all day long the discussions have been about the same thing - input. Counties want to be part of the process from the ground up. His voters are desperate to have their voice heard in Washington. Modoc Supervisor Huffman wants Home Rule to include Land Use.

CONSTITUTION REVISION/LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANIZATION PROPOSALS
Modoc Supervisor Huffman hands out proposal. Meetings are being held and wants to know if anyone is interested in attending. Plumas Supervisor Meacher states that CSAC is looking at government finance and operation.

Agenda Item 14 is put back on Agenda as Forest Service officials arrived.

UPDATE: ADMINISTRATIVE REDESIGN EFFORT ENCOMPASSING LASSEN, PLUMAS, MODOC NATIONAL FOREST

Lassen Supervisor Chapman introduces Leonard Atencio of the Lassen National Forest Redesigning Administration who states they are there to present alternatives to the proposal and that the counties are represented by a task force who will be making recommendations on the alternatives. He introduces the task force who is to present the alternatives and answer questions.

Kim Titus of the task force presents the study of alternatives to the proposal page by page. She says that the study will be finalized by May 22 and presented to the Regional Supervisor for final decision by May 31. The Tri-county Boards are allowed comments and input. Plumas Supervisor Coates says they were asked that three years ago and they did organize comments and input to not implement the plan and presented viable alternatives that were all ignored so why should they bother. A general discussion follows generally stating the Boards want the Forest Ranger returned to forest communities with decision making authority and local control and San Francisco "regional" administration closed down.

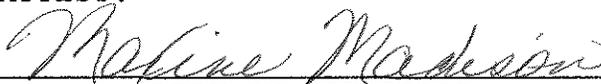
Consensus taken to continue Tri-County Board meetings. Lassen County will host next. Discuss possibility of Senator Boxer attending next meeting. Plumas Supervisor Simpson moves that 4th Tuesday, September 26 be set for the next Tri-County Board meeting and that Senator Boxer be notified. Location of meetings discussed. Coates suggest Feather River Lodge if Boxer attends. Chapman says he will try to get the college board room for the next Lassen County meeting.

There being no further business to come before the Boards, the meeting is adjourned at 4:12 p.m.



CHAIR OF THE TRI-COUNTY BOARD MEETING

ATTEST:



CLERK OF THE BOARD

BY: 

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