

From: [Derrick DeGroot](#)
To: [Haley Huffman](#)
Cc: [Kelley Minty Morris](#); [Donnie Boyd](#)
Subject: FW: Klammath Proposal
Date: Monday, May 24, 2021 12:44:06 PM
Attachments: [Fwd Klammath Proposal.msg](#)

Good afternoon,

Attached is a proposal that we are being asked to consider supporting in cooperation with Siskiyou and Modoc Counties. I propose we take some time to review and discuss at our June 8th Admin meeting.

Best,
Derrick DeGroot

-----Original Message-----

From: Geri Byrne <geribyrne@co.modoc.ca.us>
Sent: Monday, May 24, 2021 8:46 AM
To: Derrick DeGroot <ddegroot@klamathcounty.org>
Cc: Ned Coe <nedcoe@co.modoc.ca.us>; Michael Kobseff <mkobseff@co.siskiyou.ca.us>
Subject: Fwd: Klammath Proposal

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Proposal to provide federal government relations services related to the drought crisis

Prepared for Siskiyou County, CA – Modoc County, CA – Klamath County, OR

By Bob Weidner, Ryan Serote May 17, 2021

Background:

- The Klamath Basin is experiencing an exceptional and historic drought. Even prior to the challenges brought on by the current drought, the Basin has competing water needs including irrigation, groundwater pumped from private wells for domestic use, endangered species requirements, and obligations to tribal entities. The Bureau of Reclamation has announced it will reduce irrigation supply water from Upper Klamath Lake to less than 10% of needed project deliveries to irrigation projects, and many farmers will not receive any water at all. Irrigators will be unable to produce crops and livestock due to the shortage, putting family farms and entire communities at severe economic risk.
- Siskiyou, Modoc, and Klamath Counties have joined together to advocate for disaster mitigation and assistance from the federal government. The three counties' Boards of Supervisors have acted jointly to send letters requesting emergency assistance to President Biden, Interior Secretary Deb Haaland, and the California and Oregon federal congressional delegation members that represent the three counties.

Needs assessment:

- The coalition of three counties have signaled that they are seeking federal government relations services to assist with advocacy outreach to Congress and the Administration. These services would include engaging lawmakers both within and outside the 2-state delegation members, seeking opportunities to communicate and advocate with high-level officials at executive branch agencies, identifying disaster relief and other assistance, grant programs, and other funding opportunities, and coordinating efforts with national coalition groups such as the National Water Resources Association, Family Farm Alliance, National Association of Counties, and the American Farm Bureau Federation, among others.
- The 3-county coalition should establish its own unique platform in which the local government voice is heard among decision-makers in Washington. This unique perspective will complement efforts by farmers, ranchers, and other groups, and will allow the local government needs and challenges to be brought directly to lawmakers and federal agencies. Further, it gives the County Boards of Supervisors a critical seat at the table as important decisions affecting their constituents and livelihoods are made.
- Looking forward to future challenges, the 3-county coalition will need to continue to seek legislation to assist with drought preparation, mitigation, and disaster recovery through legislative and regulatory avenue. Additionally, the County Supervisors and Commissioners should establish enduring relationships in Washington on Capitol Hill and with key executive branch administration officials. Maintaining frequent strategic discussions with similarly situated stakeholder groups is also an important element of effective advocacy.

Approach:

- **Direct advocacy** – Working with California and Oregon delegation members, key House and Senate committees, caucuses, and congressional leadership offices, we propose to seek emergency relief for the three county governments and their constituents. We will also seek out and identify opportunities to include relief measures in congressional appropriations bills, infrastructure bills and other potential vehicles. We will continue to make the case for emergency response from lawmakers by capitalizing on opportunities to highlight the plight of Klamath Basin farmers and the devastating economic effects being felt across the region. In

coordination with the Klamath Water Users Association and their Washington representatives, we envision executing a strategy for engaging both the legislative and executive branch to accomplish these goals.

- **Strategic advising** – We will develop strategies to achieve objectives, analyze legislation and regulations for potential impacts to the county governments, identify potential opportunities and threats as policy developments warrant, and provide updates and recommended courses of action to the 3-county coalition. We will also continue regular communications with the 3-county coalition to provide expertise, strategic advising, and federal affairs updates, and respond to inquiries from County Supervisors/Commissioners and staff regarding federal legislation, regulations, and procedural developments.
- **Relationship management with coalitions/stakeholder groups** – We will liaise with national associations and/or regional trade associations and coalitions on behalf of the three county Boards of Supervisors/Commissioners in order to strategize with a broader coalition with similarly-situated constituencies, and expand opportunities for engagement with Capitol Hill and key executive administration officials. As federal representatives, we will participate in meetings and conference calls and report to the County Boards of Supervisors/Commissioners.
- **Securing funding opportunities** – We will work to explore securing funding opportunities from various sources. These potentially include disaster assistance programs through the U.S. Department of Agriculture (including the Commodity Credit Corporation and Risk Management Agency), Federal Emergency Management Agency, and the Bureau of Reclamation, among others.

Specific items to pursue:

- Seek additional funding from Bureau of Reclamation and Commodity Credit Corporation to be paid into the Klamath Project Drought Response Agency.
- Engage with House and Senate Appropriations Committees to examine the possibility of reprogramming funds at the Department of the Interior and Department of Agriculture to assistance programs for farmers.
- Review American Rescue Plan (COVID relief/stimulus bill) funds set aside for state and local governments to ensure the county governments are receiving all that they can from their respective states.
- Advocate for the three counties to be able to recover funds lost to harmful federal policies through Section 605 of the State and Local section of the American Rescue Plan, a provision championed by Oregon Sen. Ron Wyden that provides an additional funding stream for “revenue sharing counties” that contain significant federal lands.
- Work with USDA Wildfire and Hurricane Indemnity Program Plus (WHIP+) to change qualifying years to allow 2020-21 losses for eligibility for the program.
- Work with USDA Risk Management Agency in pursuit of waiving current prevented planting rules and harvest date requirements to allow additional flexibility for Klamath Basin farmers.
- Examine Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Particulate Matter regulations and explore whether any assistance may be available for dust control to mitigate for clean air requirements while croplands are not in production due to Bureau of Reclamation water allocation reductions.
- Engage coalition groups noted above in pushing for inclusion of drought relief provisions as part of a Bureau of Reclamation-focused water infrastructure piece to be included in broader infrastructure legislation.

Pricing and contract:

Both Bob Weidner and Ryan Serote have decades of experience working with Congress and the federal executive administration, and both have significant experience representing local governments and public sector organizations. Like our public sector clients, we are committed to affordability without sacrificing quality.

Based on an estimate of the time we expect to spend in activity on behalf of the 3-county coalition, we propose to provide the above-described professional services for a contract term of one year at an initial up-front retainer of \$10,000 to be followed by a fixed monthly retainer of \$6,000 (nominal \$2000 per county equivalent) to be paid in advance, plus fees and expenses. We envision the three counties will divide the retainer amount as they deem fair and equitable. Payment shall be made to Chartwell Enterprises.