



Board of Commissioners

David Henslee, Commissioner
Position One

Kelley Minty, Commissioner
Position Two

Derrick DeGroot, Commissioner
Position Three

February 28, 2023

Gene Souza
Executive Director
Klamath Irrigation District
6640 K.I.D. Lane
Klamath Falls, Oregon 97603

RE: Letter of Support for Klamath Irrigation District's Urban Drought Resiliency Project

Dear Mr. Souza,

We support Klamath Irrigation District's efforts to develop an Urban Drought Resiliency Project. Efforts are needed to improve health and human safety conditions associated with the open earthen canals within the Klamath Falls Urban Growth Boundary. Klamath Irrigation District's intent to pipe the portions of the canals within the Klamath Falls Urban Growth Boundary will positively improve the following for our community:

- 1) Improve likelihood of irrigation water deliveries near shallow aquifers associated with identified dry domestic wells identified in 2021 and 2022.
- 2) Reduce water quality hazards in the urban area associated with toxic algae blooms.
- 3) Reduce physical risks and hazards of open canals in proximity to parks and schools.
- 4) Reduce water delivery losses by up to 50% attributed to seepage and evaporation.

Addressing water issues in the Klamath watershed is a difficult task. Klamath Irrigation District's effort to identify solutions to improve the irrigation water delivery system infrastructure is a step in the right direction for a strategic approach to invest in the community, reduce risks, and promote Oregon's economy.

We appreciate the opportunity to work with the District to continue to make improvements in Klamath County.

Sincerely,

David A. Henslee
Commissioner

Kelley Minty
Vice Chair

Derrick DeGroot
Chair