



COUNTY OF SISKIYOU

Board of Supervisors

P.O. Box 750 □ 1312 Fairlane Rd
Yreka, California 96097
www.co.siskiyou.ca.us

(530) 842-8005
FAX (530) 842-8013
Toll Free: 1-888-854-2000, ext. 8005

April 21, 2020

The Honorable Brian Dahle
Senate Member, California State Senate
California State Capitol, Room 2054
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 989 (Dahle) - SUPPORT

Dear Senator Dahle,

The Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors is submitting this letter in support of SB 989, a bill that would modify the region boundaries of the Sierra Nevada Conservancy to add an area of Siskiyou County as well as increase the area of Shasta County included in the region.

The proposed area of Siskiyou County to be included in the region of the Sierra Nevada Conservancy includes the watershed areas of the Upper Sacramento, McCloud, and Pit Rivers. All of which drain into Shasta Lake, California's largest reservoir. The proposed adjustment to the Sierra Nevada Conservancy region boundary in Shasta County would extend slightly west of the existing boundary, and the updated region would more completely encompass the watershed areas that drain into Shasta Lake, and also areas that were impacted by the Carr, Delta, and Hirz fires of 2018.

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy was created by bi-partisan legislation and signed into law in 2004. These proposed additions of SB 989 to the Sierra Nevada Conservancy region represent very important upper watershed areas, which were omitted in the original region definition of 2004. SB 989 will correct this omission, and allow opportunity for the agency to more effectively carry out its mission to initiate, encourage, and support efforts that improve the environmental, economic, and social well-being of the Sierra Nevada region, its communities and citizens of California.

Sierra Nevada forests and watersheds are at a critical point. Ongoing drought, tree mortality, low snowpack, and a century of fire suppression, have led to an increase in large, high severity wildfires. The areas, as defined in SB 989, to be included in the Sierra Nevada Conservancy are among the more significantly prone areas in California. Both the City of Mt. Shasta and the City of Dunsmuir of Siskiyou County lie within this area, both defined as Very High Fire Severity Zones by CAL FIRE. In particular, the community of Dunsmuir is one of four of the most vulnerable communities to wildfire in California based on physical and social vulnerability studies by DirectRelief.org. The updated Sierra Nevada Conservancy region would now include a very important segment of Interstate 5 and interstate rail corridor, both of which were completely obstructed by the Delta Fire for 6 days in 2018, with subsequent traffic controls on a 17-mile section for weeks beyond that.

Brandon Criss
District 1

Ed Valenzuela
District 2

Michael N. Kobseff
District 3

Lisa Nixon
District 4

Ray Haupt
District 5

SB 989 would add 733,266 acres of Siskiyou County and 490,094 acres of Shasta County to the region of the Sierra Nevada Conservancy bringing the total region area to 26,820,420. The Sierra Nevada Conservancy region now includes areas lying within 22 counties, and SB 989 would bring that number to 23.

On December 4, 2018, the Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors unanimously approved the enclosed resolution in support of California State legislative efforts to adjust the boundaries of the Sierra Nevada Conservancy. And we are grateful to you, Senator Dahle for introducing this legislation in March of 2020.

We thank you, Senator Dahle for your support in updating the defined region of the Sierra Nevada Conservancy to include these very important watershed areas of Siskiyou County and look forward to working with you to move this effort forward.

This letter of support was approved by the Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors on April 21, 2020 by the following vote.

Sincerely,

AYES:	Supervisors Criss, Haupt, Valenzuela, Nixon and Kobseff
NOES:	NONE
ABSENT:	NONE
ABSTAIN:	NONE

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael N. Kobseff", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Michael N. Kobseff
Board of Supervisors

Enclosure.