

Lower Klamath River Dam Removal Project Creates State of Emergency

Through a formal public process, Siskiyou County CA declared a local 'State of Emergency'. Now, the crises has landed on California Governor Gavin Newsom's desk

YREKA, CALIFORNIA, US, March 28, 2024 /EINPresswire.com/ -- Tuesday, March 26th 2024 was a long and contentious day at the Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors ('BOS') meeting. This board meeting followed the March 5th, Siskiyou County Health Department advisory warning that people should not enter the Klamath River or drink the water.

"SISKIYOU COUNTY, Calif. -- Residents should not be in or drink water from the Klamath River due to high levels of arsenic, lead and aluminum, the [Siskiyou County Environmental Health said today.](#)"

https://www.kdrv.com/news/waterwatch/klamath-river-water-quality-deemed-unsafe-siskiyou-health-division-says/article_3902a056-db52-11ee-b2d1-13021d98bbeb.html#

Just the day before the Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors meeting, another casualty appeared. An adult beaver was found dead 4-miles below Iron Gate dam, adding to the huge and



RIVER OF THE YEAR CONTAMINATED

LEAD, ALUMINUM, ARSENIC AND OTHER TOXINS
FOUND IN KLAMATH RIVER SEDIMENTS AND WATER

Dam Removal Leads Ecosystem Collapse - Billions of aquatic life-forms killed



Siskiyou County CA issues warning about heavy metals in Klamath River

mounting death toll on native species aquatic and terrestrial animals as a result of the released polluted sediments from the Klamath Dams on January 23, 2024 by Klamath River Renewal Corporation (KRRC).



Families of deer were trapped by sediments and died

On February 27, 2024, California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) dumped 850,000 fall-run Chinook salmon fry into the Klamath River via its tributary Fall Creek, which

is about 10-miles upriver from the Iron Gate Dam. A few days later, CDFW admitted all of those fish died. Many long-time residents on the Klamath River, including river guides believe those little fish all died due to extreme pollution resulting from the eroding clay sediments from the newly exposed lake bottoms of the former Copco and Iron Gate lakes.

[A study done in 2006 by Gethard Engineering Consultants of Seattle](#) ('GEC') stated that the lake bed sediments in Copco and Iron Gate lakes are 78% clay. It's important to note that clay is the smallest and stickiest of any sediment class making it impossible for aquatic life to exchange oxygen through their gills when a large amount is suspended into the water column such as what is happening on the Klamath river. The sticky clay suspended into the water column sticks to the gills of aquatic life, essentially suffocating them.

The BOS Meeting

Tuesday March 26, 2024 was a day that saw the Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors standing strong for the health of the Klamath River as well as the health, safety and welfare of its constituents, especially those living on and around the Klamath River and the now drained lakes.

The online Zoom callers also lined-up to testify both against passing the Draft Resolution for a local emergency, and those in favor of the Resolution.

In addition to the full Board of County Supervisors being present, the board chamber was standing-room only, packed with Siskiyou County citizens.

Present were also representatives from, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Mike Harris - PIO), Mark Bransom the CEO of the Klamath River Renewal Corporation ('KRRC') who gave testimony. Also in attendance were numerous County staff members, including, Angela Davis, Chief Administrative Officer, Rick Dean the Director of the Community Development Department, James Smith the Agricultural Commissioner, Elizabeth Nielsen the Deputy County Administrator, Bryan Schenone the Director of OES, and Natalie Reed, County Counsel.

Emotional testimony was heard from residents who testified as having suffered insult to injury as a result of the unexpected and unintended consequences of Klamath River Renewal Corporation's ('KRRRC') dam removal project in addition to KRRRC's apparent lack of consideration, collaboration and transparency, according to testimony from several tearful citizens living on and around the now drained, sediment filled lakes and the Klamath River.

Throughout the proceeding, KRRRC's CEO Mark Bransom never offered an apology to the community for what has transpired, other than saying what has happened was 'regrettable'.

Shockingly, Mark Bransom continued to deny that the lake bed sediments are polluted.

However, Bransom's statement seems to be in total conflict with the detailed report on the lake bed sediment and water study by CDM Smith/Clearwater Sciences from 2009-2011. CDM Smith Study at this article: <https://californiaglobe.com/fr/lower-klamath-river-dam-removal-project-creates-state-of-emergency/>

The 2009-2011 CDM Smith/Stillwater Sciences report (See PDF at California Globe article) shows varied levels of several toxic heavy metals and other organic toxins, like Dioxin, DDT and PCBs, which are known to be forever chemicals that are bio-accumulative. That report also suggests that via dilution in the waters of the Klamath River and its tributaries, the toxic impacts of some of these many toxins might be mitigated.

The old 'dilution is the solution to pollution' was implicated in the CDM Smith/Stillwater Sciences study.

But how well has that worked? Looking at the tens of thousands of dump sites on land and in our rivers and oceans we find that dilution has turned to accumulation and long-term toxic pollution.

And now, the most advanced science informs us that 'dilution is NOT the solution to pollution'!

What's the real goal for the Klamath Dam Removal Project? Is Money offsetting science and common sense?

If the actual goal of dam removal is to improve the ecology and hopefully, the salmon habitat and populations in the Klamath River basin, does it make any sense whatsoever to knowingly allow any pollutants that can be mitigated to enter the river system?

Mark Bransom, the CEO of the 'Klamath River Renewal Corporation continues to argue there are no toxins in the estimated 15-million cubic yards of sediments now remaining in the lake beds of Copco and Iron Gate Lakes. Yet, the scientists that compiled the CDM Smith Study suggest that the numerous toxins they found in the lake bed sediments might be mitigated to some extent or

another (based on theory) via dilution in the Klamath River. Who's right? The scientists, or Mark Bransom, with the big salary?

The Resolution proclaiming a local emergency was passed by the BOS requesting that California Governor Gavin Newsom proclaim a State of Emergency for impacts resulting from Lower Klamath Dam removal.

The only solution to address the 15-million cubic yards of polluted lakebed sediments remaining is to have as much of them removed as is possible, before the summer winds start driving the toxic clay dust

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