

P R E S S R E L E A S E

KARUK TRIBE • YUOK TRIBE

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TRIBES APPLAUD GOVERNORS' CALL TO EXPLORE DAM REMOVAL
Schwarzenegger and Kulongoski Plan December Summit to discuss dam removal

Happy Camp, CA – Yesterday Governors Schwarzenegger and Kulongoski announced plans to hold a Klamath Summit in December to “resolve a multitude of complex issues related to the health of the river that impact salmon fishermen, tribes, hydroelectric power and a host of environmental and habitat concerns.”

The announcement follows a week of exciting news for businesses and communities dependant on a healthy Klamath River. There was he California Coastal Conservancy report filed with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) which concluded that dam removal is safe and affordable. A day earlier FERC filed its own report that concluded that dam removal is cheaper than constructing mandatory fish ladders. FERC is responsible for processing applications for renewing licenses for non-federally owned power plants.

The FERC report states that installation of fish ladders would cost rate payers nearly \$28 million a year while removing Iron Gate and Copco 1 dams would only cost \$5.7 million. The week ended with a federal judge dismissing PacifiCorp's challenges to the mandate for ladders.

As the governors made their call for a summit to explore dam removal, Governor Schwarzenegger cited testimony PacifiCorp gave at recent California Public Utility Commission hearings. According to PacifiCorp, “[we] operate the Klamath Hydroelectric Project more for compliance than for generation. Making matters worse, return flow from the Klamath [Irrigation Project] customers is unpredictable, unmanaged, and often occurs during high-water periods. Each of these factors has negative effects on PacifiCorp's ability to use the Klamath River to generate hydroelectric power.”

“We are very enthusiastic about the Governors’ call for a summit,” according to Karuk Vice chairman Leaf Hillman. “The Governors understand how important healthy runs of Klamath salmon are to the regional economy and they have obviously heard our calls for dam removal.”

Yurok Chairman Howard McConnell adds, “The governors clearly care about the environment, the sagging economy of the Klamath Basin, and the rights of Tribes. I look

forward to rolling up my sleeves and getting to work with the governors and other stakeholders in the basin to remove these worthless fish killing dams. In the end we want to have a Klamath Basin where fishermen can fish and farmers can farm.”

The lower four Klamath dams provide no irrigation diversions or flood control. However, with the expiration of this license, a contract for low cost power for Upper Basin farmers also expires. “We see project farmers as partners in our effort to restore the river we all depend on. We think we can remove dams and find a way to help farmers receive affordable power,” concludes Hillman.

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For more information and previous press releases log on to:
<http://www.karuk.us/press%20&%20campaigns/press.php>

Governor Schwarzenegger’s press release:
<http://gov.ca.gov/index.php?/press-release/3507/>

Governor Kulongoski’s press release:
http://www.oregon.gov/Gov/p2006/press_082206.shtml

To see California study on safety and feasibility of dam removal:
http://elibrary.FERC.gov/idmws/file_list.asp?accession_num=20060926-5075

FERC dEIS for Klamath Project:
<http://elibrary-backup.ferc.gov/idmws/common/OpenNat.asp?fileID=11141022>.