

R7 Approve a letter to President Trump regarding the layoff of federal workers and the potential impact to Whiskeytown National Recreation Area.

STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE:	May 13, 2025
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CATEGORY: Regular Calendar 6

SUBJECT: Approve a letter to President Trump regarding the layoff of federal workers and the potential impact to Whiskeytown National Recreation Area.

DEPARTMENT: Board of Supervisors

SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT #: All

DEPARTMENT CONTACT: Stewart Buettell, Deputy County Executive Officer, (530) 225-5561

STAFF REPORT APPROVED BY: David J. Rickert, County Executive Officer

<u>Vote Required?</u>	<u>General Fund Impact?</u>
Simple Majority Vote	No Additional General Fund Impact

RECOMMENDATION

Approve a letter to President Trump regarding the layoff of federal workers and the potential negative impacts to Whiskeytown National Recreation Area.

DISCUSSION

As discussed and approved by the Board during the regular Board of Supervisors meeting on April 8, 2025, this draft letter expresses concerns regarding the layoffs of federal employees and the possible adverse impacts to the Whiskeytown National Recreation Area during the busiest time of the year for lake activities and tourism.

ALTERNATIVES

The Board could choose not to send the letter or could defer consideration to a later date.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT

The Recommendation has been reviewed by the County Administrative Office.

FISCAL IMPACT

Costs associated with drafting and sending letters have been included in the Clerk of the Board Budget (BU 103) for Fiscal Year 2024-25.

ATTACHMENTS:

1: Draft Letter to President Trump

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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CORKEY HARMON, DISTRICT 3
MATT PLUMMER, DISTRICT 4
CHRIS KELSTROM, DISTRICT 5

May 13, 2025

President Donald J. Trump
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, DC 20500

RE: Federal Employee Layoffs and Impacts to National Parks

Dear President Trump:

On behalf of the Shasta County Board of Supervisors (Board), I write to express our growing concern regarding how layoffs and impacts to the federal workforce, specifically in the National Park Service, will affect our National Recreation Areas (NRA) as we head into peak tourism season.

Distinctly, Whiskeytown Lake, situated in far northern California and dedicated in 1963, is a 42,000-acre NRA, providing rich and diverse outdoor recreational activities to thousands of residents and even more visitors every year. Contained wholly within the County of Shasta, Whiskeytown provides over 70 miles of trails, four waterfalls, and relief from triple digit summers in the form of kayaking, sailing, swimming, and fishing. Additionally, there are many other functions, festivals, and activities that happen throughout the year, functioning as pivotal, critical experiences for children and young adults alike.

In 2018, Whiskeytown and the surrounding forests were devastated by one of the worst wildfires in California's history, the Carr Fire. Throughout the interceding seven years, as the forests are beginning to recover, and the massive burn scar begins to heal, there are portions of the Whiskeytown NRA that remain closed to regular use due to possible hazardous conditions.

While it appears that permanent federal employees at Whiskeytown may not be impacted by federal layoffs, the work of seasonal, contracted, and temporary employees who maintain trails, roads, guide tourists, and provide general information have been deemed no longer necessary. Unfortunately, this group of employees makes up a large portion of the workforce keeping Whiskeytown accessible to the public.

The Board urges the Administration to reconsider layoffs impacting the National Park Service. National parks, recreation areas, lakes, and mountainous regions throughout this great nation may be adversely impacted if not adequately protected and maintained for all to enjoy, both in the immediate future, and for years to come.

Sincerely,

Kevin W. Crye, Chair
Board of Supervisors
County of Shasta

cc: National Park Service
California State Association of Counties
Rural County Representatives of California
Shaw, Yoder, Antwih, and Lange