



TRINITY COUNTY

Board of Supervisors
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TRINITY COUNTY
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

August 7, 2007

Honorable Dirk Kempthorne
Secretary of the Interior
1849 "C" St.
Washington, D.C. 20240

Re: Request for Change in Bylaws of Trinity Management Council

Dear Mr. Secretary:

The Trinity County Board of Supervisors continues to support and participate in the Trinity River Restoration Program (TRRP). We appreciate your support for the program in your current position as Interior Secretary.

We also appreciate your successful co-sponsorship of Public Law 104-143 to reauthorize the TRRP when you were in the Senate in the mid 1990's. However, it has become apparent that the bylaws of the Trinity Management Council (TMC), which require a supermajority vote to pass a motion, are inadequate for the TRRP, as well as the TMC to function effectively. We ask that you unilaterally change the TMC bylaws to require a simple majority vote to pass a motion.

The TMC's bylaws require that no more than one member of eight vote "No" on a motion for it to pass. The TMC failed to pass a budget for the monitoring, science and watershed restoration portion of the budget this year. As a result, the budget has gone to Steve Thompson of USF&WS and Kirk Rodgers of Reclamation to develop a final budget. We also understand that the TMC shortly will receive instructions from Mr. Thompson and Mr. Rodgers to resolve administrative problems at the TMC level through additional facilitated meetings.

The Board of Supervisors believes that without changing the TMC bylaws to allow a simple majority vote to pass a motion, the TMC's ineffectiveness will continue to prevail. Recent meetings of the TMC have been extremely unproductive and frustrating. We believe that the inability to move forward is partly due to the supermajority voting requirement to pass a motion.

Additional changes to the TMC bylaws also may be necessary, but there is no possibility they can be effective without changing the bylaws to provide for a simple majority vote to pass a motion. Therefore, we request that you direct your staff in the appropriate

JUDY PFLUEGER
DISTRICT 1

JEFF MORRIS
DISTRICT 2

ROGER JAEGEL
DISTRICT 3

HOWARD FREEMAN
DISTRICT 4

WENDY REISS
DISTRICT 5

agencies to change the TMC's bylaws to require a simple majority, rather than a super-majority vote to pass a motion.

Thank you for consideration of our request. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

TRINITY COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

By,



JEFFREY W. MORRIS, CHAIRMAN

cc: Kirk Rodgers, Mid-Pacific Regional Director, Bureau of Reclamation
Steve Thompson, California/Nevada Area Manager, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Trinity Management Council Members and Alternates
Trinity Adaptive Management Working Group Members