

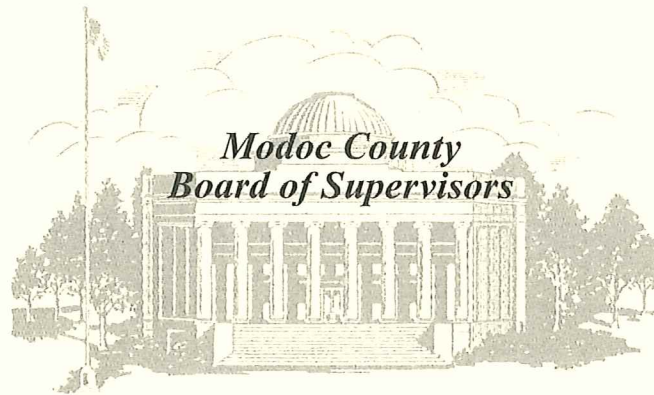
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February 27, 2017

National Park Service
Pacific West Region – Seattle Office
Park Planning and Environmental Compliance
Attn: Tule Lake GMP/EA
909 First Avenue, Suite 500
Seattle WA, 98104

RE: Tule Lake General Management Plan for the WWII Valor in the Pacific National Monument, Tule Lake Unit

On behalf of the Modoc County Board of Supervisors, I would like to express our appreciation for the detailed presentation regarding the Tule Lake General Management Plan from Superintendent, Lawrence J. Whalen. The Board has received immense feedback from our constituents which we carefully considered during our analysis of all options within the Tule Lake General Management Plan.

After a comprehensive review, the Board voted to support Alternative A of the Tule Lake General Management Plan, and oppose the recommended congressional legislation to authorize a name change from the Tule Lake Unit of World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument to Tule Lake National Historic Site.

MODOC COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS SUPPORT - ALTERNATIVE A:

The no-action alternative relies solely on the Tule Lake Unit's base funding. The unit would be closed to the public, except during the summer season at the segregation center's ditch rider house. Access to Camp Tulelake, the Peninsula, and the segregation center's stockade would only be allowed infrequently during scheduled tours led by NPS rangers. Only two ongoing projects would be included: the restoration of the jail and a local interpretation and education program. No other interpretation and education, resource management, historic preservation, and facility improvement projects would occur.

From the beginning, the community of Tulelake supported the designation with the understanding that the project would be mutually beneficial to the Parks Service and the community. Unfortunately, documented incidents of the Parks Service providing various

messages depending on the location of the public meeting has eroded the trust of both the community and the Modoc County Board of Supervisors.

The Tule Lake committee and the Parks Service must recognize the economy of Modoc County is directly associated with the production of agriculture products. The airport business provides a vital service to the community and county. As one of the largest employers in Modoc County, the business provides essential careers to an economically depressed area.

The lack of consideration for the airport in the Tule Lake General Management Plan appears to be in direct conflict of the message received during public meetings in the Tulelake area. The Board has difficulty embracing Alternative C, the preferred alternative, when the community is being sued by the Tule Lake committee with the goal of removing the airport.

We hope to work together for a mutually successful outcome regarding this issue. The Board of Supervisors and the community are in unison to support Alternative A until the lawsuit against the Tulelake community is closed and the National Parks Service proves itself trustworthy to all parties involved.

Sincerely,



Geri Byrne
Chair, Modoc County Board of Supervisors

Cc: Lawrence J. Whalen, Jr., Superintendent