



Superintendent

Inspiring Today's Students To Meet Tomorrow's Challenges

10501 Washburn Way • Klamath Falls, OR 97603 • 541-883-5000 • FAX 541-883-6677

June 23, 2016

The Klamath County School District and Klamath County School Board would like to advise the Klamath Irrigation District to go forward with contracts to repair the C Canal Flume.

The C Canal Flume holds special significance to the county schools because of its very close proximity to the Henley Complex. The complex is home to Henley High School, Henley Middle School, the new Henley Elementary and Falcon Heights Academy, the district's alternative high school. On a given school day, about 1,600 students attend class at the Henley Complex, and 150 staff members work there.

According to a June 16 Herald and News article, the 92-year-old C Canal delivers water to 22,000 acres of agricultural land via the 4,300-foot-long concrete flume. The Bureau of Reclamation has notified KID the flume must be replaced or is at risk of being shut down.

Because of its age and decay, the Klamath County School Board and District is concerned about the safety of the canal and the nearby Henley Complex. Should the flume fail, it represents a serious danger to the children attending school and the staff working there.

Further, the county school district and the taxpayers of Klamath County have made significant investments in the Henley Complex in recent years.

Building a new elementary school cost about \$20.3 million, all of which came from the \$31 million bond voters passed in May 2013. The new Henley Elementary represents how much the community, school district and taxpayers care about the students and the school.

The school district also recently built new tennis courts, and made renovations to the modular buildings now housing Falcon Heights Academy. This summer the school district is spending more than \$600,000 to extend the bus loop at the complex, repaving parking areas around the tennis courts and Henley Middle School.

The Henley Complex is an important part of the Klamath County School District and an important part of the Klamath County community. The District and Board feel it is too valuable to risk, and the value of the students and staff are immeasurable. We ask the KID to please consider this in making its important decision today.

Sincerely,

Greg Thede

Superintendent

Klamath County School District

541-851-8766