

review. Within hours we were told by Reclamation to stop our review until they had a chance to make some changes.

On February 5, 2019, Reclamation submitted a second "Final" BA and NMFS continued to review the document. We spent the next several weeks carefully reviewing the proposed action and analysis and quickly determined that we did not have sufficient information to initiate ESA Section 7 consultation. Under any other circumstance, we would have notified the lead Federal action agency that the BA did not meet the minimum standards for initiating consultation and we would not have initiated the consultation. Most significantly, the BA did not have a clear description of the action to be covered.

After completing our review of the BA, NMFS spent approximately two weeks in focus-group meetings with Reclamation trying to get a better understanding of the proposed action. My sense is that the meetings were helpful but that staff still felt that they were managing a lot of ambiguity.

NMFS also began to take on the biological modeling that we had recommended for the BA. Reclamation was supportive of this effort and made their consulting teams available to help with modeling runs. We also had to find funds to support the NMFS Southwest Fisheries Science Center to conduct a run of the Winter-run Life Cycle Model. We felt that the results of these modeling efforts were critical to our mandate to apply the best available scientific information to the BO. Taking on these modeling commitments was a significant task and took away staff time from actually drafting the BO.

In April, Reclamation issued a third "Final" BA and our staff spent a considerable amount of time understanding the changes and incorporating them into the BO.

In late April, DOI started to insist that we share the draft BO much sooner than we had planned. Our original plan had a joint Reclamation, WIIN Act Public Water Agency and Independent Peer Review scheduled for late May. We were directed by the lead Federal representative to start sharing the drafts sections of the BO, while the sections were very much in the early drafting stage. This initiated a sequence of events and meetings that consumed much of our available time and were almost impossible for our drafting team to recover from.

During the first wave of reviews we received over 500 comments on the Shasta section, nearly 190 comments on the Delta and hundreds of comments on other sections. We were directed into all-day Tiger Team meetings and Director meetings to clarify the characterization of the proposed action and to scrutinize our effects analysis. The lead Federal representative routinely made statements that our effects analysis was "an extreme worst-case scenario" and that it was hard to understand how we were having trouble with the 4-tiered Shasta Cold Water Temperature Management Plan when "at the end of the day we have a much bigger cold water pool and that should only help us". These statements were not helpful and only added to the confusion and emerging divide between NMFS and Reclamation.

Although the staff-level Tiger Team meetings were costly in terms of time and staff resources they were important because once we were able to focus on the priority comments, we took the time to get into details of the proposed action and effects at a level that we were not able to during the focus group sessions. These working sessions improved the quality of the BO. During these meetings, I reflected that this is exactly how the Section 7 consultation process should work, but unfortunately, the time constraints did not allow for this deliberation

between agencies to run a more natural course.

These meetings were followed by a series of Director-level elevations to resolve matters related to the NMFS analysis of effects on Shasta temperature management and juvenile fish loss at the export facilities. We agreed to a general course of action to develop management objectives for Shasta temperatures and loss at the export facilities. Accomplishing this task would take time and a two week extension was granted to the consultation period to allow us to work through this and to "clean up the analysis". The final BO would now be due on July 1, 2019.

As we moved toward WIIN Act Public Water Agency and Independent Scientific Peer Review, DOI's concern with our analysis began to breach the scientific integrity of the process. Most significant was, what I believe was a political decision to extract our "Integration and Synthesis" section from the Effects Analysis for the review. The Integration and Synthesis section is, perhaps, the most important part of any BO, because it is in this section that our "jeopardy analysis" occurs; where we actually complete the aggregate analysis that supports our conclusion. The direction to extract this section from review, particularly Independent Scientific Peer Review, seemed completely contradictory to the NOAA policy on scientific integrity from NOAA Administrative Order 202-735D: Scientific Integrity. This order was issued to promote a culture of scientific integrity and excellence and establishes an understanding that there must be a commitment between scientists, managers and those who set policy to follow a code of scientific conduct and ethics. I feel that in being directed to extract this section was in direct conflict with the goals of the policy.

On June 14, 2019, Reclamation issued a revision to the proposed action. NMFS had to review the revision and incorporate the changes into the analysis of the BO. Due to time constraints, we accomplished this through supplemental analyses that were essentially tagged on to the end of the Shasta and Delta analyses. This was not ideal, and from my perspective, did not meet Reclamation's satisfaction, but it was the best we could do given time constraints.

Although we spent quite a bit of time working directly with Reclamation to accurately characterize the proposed action and we spent more time independently working on the effects analysis. A second review of the draft BO signaled to DOI that they were still not pleased with the way or effects analysis was reading. Based on this a second extension to the consultation is currently being considered.

Ultimately, the NMFS Central Valley Office completed a draft BO that we sent to Barry Thom, the WCR Regional Administrator, on July 1, 2019. I believe that, considering the time constraints and the complexities of this consultation, that this BO does a good job of analyzing the effects of Reclamation's proposed action and that the draft conclusion of the BO is sound and supported by the best available science.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 24, 2020

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Madam Speaker, I was unable to be present for recorded votes on November 20, 2020, for a recorded vote on

Amendment No. 9 and Amendment No. 15 to H.R. 8294 and final passage of H.R. 8294, the National Apprenticeship Act. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 225, YEA on Roll Call No. 226, and NAY on Roll Call No. 227.

REMEMBERING PEGGY FULTON
HORA

HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 24, 2020

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the life of retired California Superior Court Judge, Peggy Fulton Hora, who passed away on October 31, 2020.

Born in Oakland and educated in Castro Valley, Hayward, and San Francisco, Peggy was a true Bay Area native. She understood our community and would devote her life to helping others within it. Right from the beginning of her legal career, she committed herself to service by joining the Legal Aid Society of Alameda County, much of which, I represent in Congress.

In a spirit I certainly understand, Peggy, in 1984, decided to make a long-shot run for a judgeship. Her opponents underestimated her, then found themselves referring to her by her new title, Judge Hora.

Judge Hora could have gone to work each morning, completed the criminal dockets in front of her, then returned home in the evening and been a successful member of the bench. But, as you might imagine, this was not how Judge Hora operated. She saw the same defendants in her courtroom repeatedly and thought that there must be a better way. She sought a way to disrupt the criminal justice cycle that she found herself participating in. She turned to a deep and personal love of hers for the solution, reading and studying. She studied brain science, chemical dependence, and addiction. She took this new understanding and helped innovate our justice system by helping to establish a new drug treatment court movement with the intention of being therapeutic and rehabilitating instead of having a primary focus on punishment.

Judge Hora served on the trial bench in Alameda County for over 20 years. She would go on to share her knowledge as the dean of the B.E. Witkin Judicial College of California, and a 15-year faculty member of the National Judicial College. Judge Hora was the 2004 recipient of the Bernard S. Jefferson Judicial Education Award from the California Judge's Association and a 2008 inductee to the Alameda County Women's Hall of Fame. In 2015, Judge Hora, with two colleagues, founded the Justice Speakers Institute and became even more widely recognized as an authority on justice systems and their administration worldwide.

In her personal life, Judge Hora was a voracious reader and traveler. She also enjoyed the symphony, ballets, and both preparing and enjoying fine dining. Her passing was unexpected, and she will be dearly missed by the loving family she left behind. She was predeceased by her son Tim Spangler; but her son Erik and his wife Linda, her son Paul and his wife Jamie; and her eight grandchildren, Dillon, Kyle, Madison, Nathan, Kevin, Emily,

Tommy, and Joseph will no doubt share fond memories of their “Venture Grandma” for decades to come. Our community is a better place because of her efforts and my heart is with her family as they navigate the days ahead.

GIVING THANKS FOR FOOD BANKS

HON. ELISSA SLOTKIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 24, 2020

Ms. SLOTKIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today, like so many of my colleagues this week, to give thanks.

As winter approaches, coronavirus cases are skyrocketing. Hospitals are at or near capacity, and more than 250,000 Americans have died. Thanksgiving this year looks different; it's smaller or even virtual, as folks heed public health guidance to stay home and prevent the spread.

In the midst of this pandemic, families across the country and across Michigan are hurting—and to meet their needs, our local organizations are stepping up. Today, I rise to honor and express gratitude for the invaluable service these organizations provide to our community.

In Ingham County, the Holt Community Food Bank has been giving back for more than 20 years. What began as a repository of a few bags of non-perishable food “just in case” someone needed help has grown into an operation that serves more than 150 families each month.

In Livingston County, Torch 180 purchased the old Fowlerville library in order to turn it into Michigan's first restaurant and coffee shop staffed entirely by adults with disabilities. When COVID hit, they quickly shifted gears—using the space to serve meals and distribute groceries to anyone in need.

When a woman on Supplemental Security Income called my office in a panic because she hadn't received her stimulus check, Torch 180 brought her a week's worth of groceries. They made sure she was okay, and then came back to the motel where she was staying to provide meals for other residents as well.

And in Oakland County, the Rochester Area Neighborhood House offers wrap-around services for those who are struggling with housing, transportation, employment and more. Its food pantry has given out more than 125,000 meals to area residents since the pandemic started and it shows no signs of stopping.

These are just a few of the unsung heroes in our district, exhibiting extraordinary kindness and dedication to supporting their fellow Americans in a time of great need.

To the individuals who work tirelessly every day to serve others, may you know that this Thanksgiving, a grateful nation is thinking of you.

TRIBUTE TO DURHAM COUNTY COMMISSIONER ELLEN RECKHOW

HON. DAVID E. PRICE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 24, 2020

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ellen Reckhow, Durham County Commissioner, who is retiring this year after over 30 years of distinguished service. Ellen was first elected to the Durham County Board of Commissioners in 1988. She served as Board Chairman from 2002 to 2008 and as Vice Chairman during two additional periods. My own term of service is largely coextensive with hers, which has made me fully appreciative of Ellen's impact on the county and our region and grateful for the many ways we have found to collaborate.

Commissioner Reckhow's tenure on the Durham County Board of Commissioners has been marked by immense transformation in Durham, challenging her and the Board to balance growth with the needs of existing residents and a diverse community. Early in her tenure, the Board led in the merger of the city and county school systems, to address financial inequities and equalize opportunities for all the county's children. Ellen takes special pride in her role as a founder of the East Durham Children's Initiative: “Helping all our children succeed in life is a passion for me,” she recently affirmed.

As a Board member, Commissioner Reckhow championed public-private partnerships, exemplified by the development of the Treyburn Corporate Park and Research Triangle Park, which have attracted business opportunities and economic growth across the region. She also worked with counterparts in neighboring counties to establish the Triangle Transit Authority, now GoTriangle, a bedrock of the region's transit operations, as well as of planning for the future. During Durham's significant economic transformation, Commissioner Reckhow has remained steadfast in her dedication to expanding opportunity and improving the wellbeing of her entire community. She has prioritized environmental protections and access to education, including funding for Pre-K expansion and scholarships to Durham Technical Community College for every high school graduate in Durham County.

Ellen has offered leadership to local governing boards ranging from the Carolina Theatre to the Lincoln Community Health Center. She has worked for years with our regional Metropolitan Planning Organization and has taken important assignments with the North Carolina and national associations of county governments. She has received numerous accolades for her dedication to public service, including the Goodmon Award for Exemplary Regional Leadership by an Elected Official, the North Carolina Planning Association's Elected Official of the Year, the Sierra Club Environmental Leadership Award, and the Partnership for Children Champion for Children Award.

While Commissioner Reckhow may be retiring from public service, I know she will remain engaged in strengthening and improving our Durham community. She has said as much, and I take her at her word. She and I have always had ideas to share and mutual support to offer, particularly in the areas of transpor-

tation and housing, and I am counting on that continuing. In the meantime, Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Commissioner Ellen Reckhow for her long service on the Durham County Board of Commissioners and her tireless dedication to children and families across Durham and North Carolina.

IN MEMORY OF RAYMOND DENNY

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 24, 2020

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I would like to include in the RECORD the following obituary for distinguished South Carolinian, Raymond A. Denny, Jr.:

Raymond Denny, former sales executive in the electronics industry, passed away October 26 in Greenville. Born in New York City September 18, 1930, he was the son of Raymond and Hazel Ladner Denny. He graduated from Iona College, where he was a member of the 1954 championship debating team and President of the Young Republicans of NY.

He developed his business career with Union Carbide as sales manager for consumer products. His position as the first sales manager of Kemet Electronics brought him from Ohio to Greenville, later declaring he did not plan to live anywhere else. He later founded Electronic Marketing Associates, a successful electronics sales firm covering the south.

He was a lifelong member of Toastmasters, the English Speaking Union; and a member of the Furman University Learning in Retirement program, lecturing on cathedral history and the origins of Christianity in England. He was a member of First Presbyterian Church of Greenville. He is survived by his wife of 64 years, Peggy; sons Robert of Raleigh and Tony (Beverly) of Columbia; and grandchildren Leah Grace and Marshall Denny.

HONORING MAYOR PRO TEM THOMAS HAUGHEY

HON. NORMA J. TORRES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 24, 2020

Mrs. TORRES of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Thomas Haughey and his countless years of dedication to the Inland Empire on the occasion of his retirement from the Chino City Council and his position as Mayor Pro Tem.

Tom served as Mayor Pro Tem of Chino and, since 2001, as a member of the Chino City Council, where he participated on the Economic Development Committee and as Vice Chairperson of the Public Financing Authority. He also served on the Chino Planning Commission in 2001. Tom represented Chino across several critical boards to the community, including the Chino Basin Desalter Authority, Ontario International Airport Inter-Agency Collaborative, and as an alternate on the San Bernardino County Transportation Authority. A major win for the region, Tom championed the multimillion-dollar Pine Avenue Project, which will offset traffic congestion on the major freeway, Highway 71, and improve