

SITES
RESERVOIR
PROJECT

**CERTIFIED
ORIGINAL**

**RDEIR/SDEIS
VIRTUAL
PUBLIC MEETING**

Wednesday, December 15, 2021

6:00 P.M.

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A P P E A R A N C E S

Sara Katz,
Meeting Moderator

Aly Forsythe,
Sites Environmental Planning and Permitting
Manager

Vanessa King,
Bureau of Reclamation

Sarah Rossetto,
Q&A Monitor

Mike Hendrick,
Fisheries Biologist

1 Currently, I see two hands, it appears, to be
2 raised. And our first speaker will be Steve Evans.
3 After that, the next few speakers in the queue are Isaac
4 Kenny and Regina Chichizola.

5 So, Steve, if you could unmute yourself,
6 please state and spell your name before providing your
7 comment.

8 STEVE EVANS: My name is Steve Evans. That's
9 E-v-a-n-s. I represent California Wilderness Coalition.
10 I'm the -- their Rivers Director. I live and -- and
11 base my work out of Sacramento.

12 I'm a little concerned -- well, I'm more than
13 a little concerned that the EIS/EIR is focusing on
14 impacts on fisheries. That's important. We've watched
15 the Delta Smelt go extinct in its native habitat,
16 essentially, in the Delta, and we've seen continued
17 declines in winter and spring run -- salmon in
18 Sacramento River. So those are important. That's an
19 important issue in terms of this project. Leaving
20 enough water in the river for those fisheries to
21 survive.

22 I -- it appears to me, however, that this
23 document and the Sites partnership has not done a very
24 good job trying to assess impacts on the Sacramento
25 River ecosystem, partic -- particularly, it's riparian

1 habitat. The riparian habitat along the Sacramento
2 River is some of the most healthiest in the State. I've
3 run a lot of rivers in the State. I can tell you that
4 Sacramento River remains one of the few rivers that
5 looks natural, and it's because it has sufficient flows,
6 despite hosting the largest dam and reservoir in
7 California -- in Shasta Dam Reservoir. There are
8 sufficient flows from tributaries to provide for erosion
9 and deposition of sands and that cre -- recreate
10 riparian habitat over the years, and henna (phonetic)
11 and riparian habitats a number of rare and endangered
12 and threatened wildlife species, and I can find nothing
13 in this document so far that reflects any substantial
14 assessment of impacts on this -- from this Project. So
15 I would urge you to do that.

16 Secondly, I would urge you to extend the
17 comment deadline, because this is a huge document,
18 released just before the holidays, and it just is
19 important for the -- give the public the time they need
20 to review and comment on it. Thank you.

21 SARA KATZ: Thank you, Steve, very much.

22 Our next question is from Isaac Kinney --
23 Kinney. Isaac, if you could please unmute yourself.

24 ISAAC KINNEY: (Spoken in Yurok dialect) Isaac
25 Kinney, with (spoken in Yurok dialect.)