

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 that it's being rushed is super unstable, obsolete way
2 of doing things, and we need to change that. Being able
3 to give the comment -- extend the comment period gives
4 tribes a chance to understand what all the ramifications
5 are, what happens when you flood a whole village site,
6 when you take these resources away for generations.
7 That's what has not been addressed in the EIR/EIS yet
8 and needs to be addressed is the way cultural resources
9 will be protected when you flood and create a new
10 ecological ecosystem. This is a --

11 SARA KATZ: Thank you, Isaac.

12 ISAAC KINNEY: -- again, a place that we
13 cannot --

14 SARA KATZ: Thank you for your comment.

15 ISAAC KINNEY: This is a place we cannot keep
16 on doing business as usual. This --

17 SARA KATZ: Thank you, Isaac.

18 Our next speaker will be Regina Chichizola.
19 If you could please unmute yourself.

20 REGINA CHICHIZOLA: Hi. Thank you -- that is
21 my child. Sorry.

22 Hi. My name is Regina Chichizola, and I am
23 the Co-Director of Save California Salmon. I wanted to
24 say that I feel like this EIR and EIS includes a lot of
25 assumptions that are not proven in fact. And there's a

1 lot of holes. And I feel like there's a lot of putting
2 the cart before the horse.

3 First of all, the Sacramento is completely
4 over -- system. I think five times as much water is
5 allocated than actually exists. And you're def --
6 you're trying to get -- relying on water that doesn't
7 necessarily exist, and climate change is not really
8 factored into the modeling. The environmental baseline
9 is not based in reality, as it's based on the Trump-era
10 of biological opinions, which are illegal and are -- are
11 killing all of the salmon off.

12 Also, it's gonna impact Delta outflows, which
13 is at -- already right now, Delta outflows are severely
14 impacted. And, hopefully as you know, the water quality
15 analysis shows pretty -- pretty extreme impacts to water
16 quality, and when you don't have as much water going
17 into a system, that means that agricultural chemicals
18 also are concentrated. So this could really impact the
19 State's water supply as far as the drinking water
20 quality for anyone who gets water out of the Delta.

21 I also think that the fact that the tribal
22 consultation has not been robust is a huge issue. I
23 think that it's disingenuous to say that bypass flows
24 are protected, because they're not. The 1800 CFS only
25 applies to two months out of the year, and then

1 the flows will go way down through other months when
2 it's critical for fish to have -- have that water,
3 including spring salmon. So, I really feel like the EIS
4 and EIR is trying to put lipstick on a pig or, you know,
5 it's trying to make it sound like building dams and
6 reservoirs is good for fish and good for the
7 environment, but it's not. It's a water grab, and it's
8 a -- largely gonna go out of the area, and it's gonna
9 take much more water from our rivers. And I also think
10 that we have --

11 SARA KATZ: Thank you, Regina, for your
12 comment. The --

13 REGINA CHICHIZOLA: I would --

14 SARA KATZ: The -- the next speaker is Ashley
15 Overhouse.

16 Ashley, if you could please unmute yourself.

17 ASHLEY OVERHOUSE: Thank you. If you can hear
18 me?

19 SARA KATZ: Yes, we can.

20 ASHLEY OVERHOUSE: Thank you. This is Ashley
21 Overhouse. I'm the Resilient Rivers Director with
22 Friends of the River, and on Monday, December 13th,
23 Friends of the River Pacific Coast of Federation
24 Fishermen's Association, Institute for Fisheries
25 Resources, California Native Plant Society, and Sierra

1 Club California submitted a letter to Sites Authority
2 requesting an extension of time to provide public
3 comments on the RDEIR and SDEIS. The cir -- the
4 documents, we understand, thousands of pages, including
5 appendices was circulated for review on November 12th,
6 making the deadline for public comment January 11th.
7 We're requesting, respectfully, an additional 31 days,
8 making the comment deadline February 11th, 2022.

9 We expect this will not impact the overall
10 project deadlines. As said earlier today at the
11 California Water Commission Meeting and on your website,
12 the expected completion for the finalized documents is
13 not until late summer or early fall. There's a
14 discrepancy there, but I understand that this is going
15 to take quite a bit of time to go over, review, and time
16 to finalize the documents, so we respectfully request
17 additional time to provide you that substantive feedback
18 that will help you do so.

19 We understand the alternatives include
20 reservoir sizes, from 1.3 to 1.5 million acre feet.
21 And, of course, with those alternatives comes a variety
22 of different as -- you know, impacts, as well as
23 technical material to review. And as you've heard from
24 others, today we share some of those concerns about
25 those impacts. FOR and others need to have the time to