

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 adverse and cum -- cumulative impacts that are mentioned
2 that are still being studied in this process, that we
3 still have to recognize. They're gonna be drastic
4 changes, and we don't want to take that lightly.

5 I also want to add that we do need to have an
6 extension. We do need to look at these details, because
7 once these changes are made, they're irreversible, and
8 we can't -- we -- we can't afford -- I mean, we're
9 already looking at a world where salmon are -- are on
10 the brink of extinction. We're looking at situations
11 where, you know, if salmon aren't thriving, we're not
12 thriving.

13 If our -- if our watersheds are not healthy
14 and in the condition in which they were originally made
15 really and truthfully, if we hadn't messed with them, I
16 don't think we would be in the situation right -- we're
17 simply in. So, everything -- I really do support the
18 fact that we need to take our time, that we need to be
19 more inclusive in this process, and not to take any kind
20 of decision-making lightly or feel that we're gonna be
21 too rushed in this process, because one thing we can
22 change, that's it.

23 Thank you.

24 SARA KATZ: Thank you very much.

25 Seeing no other hands, Regina, if you would

1 like to unmute yourself and go ahead and make your
2 comment.

3 REGINA CHICHIZOLA: Yeah. My comment is
4 actually process-related.

5 I just wanted to say that I don't think a lot
6 of people did know about this meeting. I don't think it
7 was really noticed how to get on this meeting, to
8 participate very well. I asked when -- when there was
9 gonna be a Zoom link on Monday. Forty-nine thousand
10 people, almost, have -- have sent in letters against
11 this project. I think at least 30, but maybe up to 50
12 people commented today at the California Water
13 Commission Meeting. Those comments were 95 percent
14 against California funding this project.

15 I don't think people know where the water is
16 supposed to go to, or the fact that Metropolitan Water
17 District is 25 percent holder of the water, so that's
18 not a lot of benefits for the north state. I live in
19 the north state. Almost everyone who's a member of the
20 State of California Salmon lives in the north state, so
21 I definitely take offense to, like, everyone supports
22 this. I think almost hardly anyone even knows about it.
23 And when we tell people about it, they don't think it's
24 a good idea. So I definitely ask for the extension too,
25 but I think along with the extension, there should be

1 a -- maybe as a consideration of another public comment
2 meeting after the holidays, because I think -- I mean,
3 an EIS and an EIR is when all this is supposed to hit
4 the table, when you're supposed to know. And everything
5 I hear is we're gonna study this later. We're gonna
6 talk to the community about this later, and that's not
7 how a public process is supposed to play out. And it's
8 not what makes people feel safe about a project. So
9 my -- I'm keeping my comments just to not feeling like
10 this was a well-noticed hearing, or a well-noticed
11 project. And -- yeah, I mean, all the meetings I've
12 gone to on this, very few people have gone to. But,
13 literally, tens of thousands of people have told me that
14 they're opposed.

15 So -- yeah, I think there needs to be more
16 information out there and more discussion. That's the
17 -- that's the only reason I would have raised my hand
18 again, by the way.

19 SARA KATZ: Thank you. Thank you so much.

20 Is there anyone on the phone that would like
21 to ask a question? And if so, please press star 9 to
22 raise your hand. We will be accepting comments until
23 8:00 p.m. And so, right now, I don't see any other
24 hands raised.

25 Again, if there's anyone else that would like