

SITES
RESERVOIR
PROJECT

**CERTIFIED
ORIGINAL**

**RDEIR/SDEIS
VIRTUAL
PUBLIC MEETING**

Thursday, December 16, 2021

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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 perhaps it's Malissa. Again, if you could state your
2 name and spell it for the record and any agency or
3 organization you may represent.

4 MALISSA TAYABA: Hello. Malissa Tayaba,
5 M-a-l-i-s-s-a, last name, T-a-y-a-b-a.

6 Good morning, Commissioners. Thank you for
7 the opportunity to speak. I'm Malissa Tayaba, Vice
8 Chair of Shingle Springs, Band of Miwok Indians. The
9 Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians derives from both
10 Miwok and Utian lineage, with major village sites in
11 Sacramento, the Delta, and beyond. The tribes
12 ancestral homelands span seven counties, including
13 Sutter, Yuba, Yolo, Sacramento, El Dorado, Placer and
14 Amador. The inter-connectivity of the land, the
15 waterways, the people, the plants, animals, and
16 resources is deep, reciprocal and time-wise. The
17 ancestral waterways are the lifeblood of the tribe and
18 include the Sacramento River, American River, Feather
19 River, Bear River, Consumnes River, and the watersheds
20 therein.

21 The Shingle Springs Bank of Miwok Indians were
22 originally displaced by colonization, the mission
23 system, disease brought by fur trade, the arrival of
24 John Sutter, the genocide violence of the Gold Rush, the
25 political violence of California's state head, and

1 anti-Indian laws and policies.

2 Delta ancestral homelands were lost to
3 Reclamation and colonization in the 19th Century, and we
4 have been kept out by private land ownership and state
5 and federal water resource development in the Delta
6 Region. The Delta is a diminishing resource, that once
7 stretched at least as far north as the confluence of the
8 Sacramento and Feather Rivers in Sutter County, near the
9 Nisenan Village of Vola.

10 It is being further diminished, along with its
11 cultural and traditional resources that tribes have
12 utilized from the Delta for food, medicine,
13 transportation, shelter, clothing, ceremony, and
14 traditional lifeways from the beginning of time.
15 Additional diversions from the Sacramento River
16 Watershed will exacerbate an already damaged and
17 diminishing Delta ecosystem and ossuary and our tribes
18 ties to our homelands.

19 I'm here today because your decisions
20 regarding the Sites Reservoir have a direct impact on
21 the health, life expectancy, and future of our tribe.
22 Our waterways must be managed holistically.

23 In addition, true and meaningful tribal
24 consultation has not occurred. In fact, my tribe was
25 not consulted. And President Biden's November 12th

1 memo, heads of federal agencies and departments, he
2 emphasizes the importance and intentions of advancing
3 equity for Indigenous people, with commitments to ensure
4 that federal agencies conduct regular, meaningful, and
5 robust consultation with tribes. To date, consultation
6 efforts have been neither regular, meaningful, nor
7 robust. We urge the Commission to not move forward with
8 this project.

9 Thank you.

10 SARA KATZ: Our next speaker will be Nicole N.
11 Diti (phonetic). And if you could please state your
12 name, spell it, any organization, and unmute yourself.

13 NICOLE PANDITI: Hi. I'm Nicole Panditi. I
14 am just a citizen who is concerned by this project. I
15 urge the Commission not to move forward with this
16 project. As the very eloquent speaker before me stated,
17 it's completely unacceptable to overrule native burial
18 grounds, native ceremonial sites, and create, basically,
19 what would be a water project that's not needed or
20 helpful and would threaten the drinking sources, the
21 drinking water quality of so many other Californians.
22 This project is -- it's not needed and -- and it should
23 not move forward.

24 That's all I have to say. Thank you.

25 SARA KATZ: Thank you, Nicole.