

SITES  
RESERVOIR  
PROJECT

**CERTIFIED  
ORIGINAL**

**RDEIR/SDEIS  
VIRTUAL  
PUBLIC MEETING**

Thursday, December 16, 2021

Jennifer Geraty  
Certified Shorthand Reporter  
License No. 13350

**J.D. COURT REPORTING**  
30343 CANWOOD ST., STE. 208A  
AGOURA HILLS, CA 91301  
[818] 851-9910

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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, we do not have any other hands  
2 raised. We will be accepting comments until the end of  
3 the meeting. If you'd like to provide a comment, please  
4 raise your hand.

5           The next speaker is Ben King. Ben, if you  
6 could state your name and any organization you may  
7 represent, and you are now authorized to unmute  
8 yourself.

9           BEN KING: Thank you. Yes, my name's Ben  
10 King, and I'm representing T & M King Farms, which is a  
11 family farm that's been owned since 1860. My great  
12 grandfather actually got title to the property because  
13 he farmed an area which was wetlands back during the  
14 period before the Knights Ridge Cut -- Knights Ridge  
15 Landing Cut. The property actually is near the  
16 confluence of Sycamore Slough, the old Sycamore Slough  
17 and Colusa Basin Drain, which was a variable waterway,  
18 presettlement, with groundwater dependent ecosystems or  
19 riparian habitat, some of which still exists, especially  
20 near my property. There's islands in the middle of the  
21 Colusa Basin Drain.

22           So my primary -- two -- two main comments, and  
23 I'll -- I'll respond in more detail in written form, but  
24 the first is regarding the public engagement process at  
25 this point. It's unfortunate we are in an area of

1 Covid, so a lot of -- it was truncated, some Zoom, and a  
2 lot of constituents weren't able to participate. And  
3 then -- so I think that it'd be good, especially as this  
4 goes forward, to -- to acknowledge that.

5           The -- the other general comment, really  
6 regards the -- the benefit -- the potential benefits of  
7 the Delevan intertie in that it actually would  
8 provide -- have possibility of actually providing offset  
9 for the lost drainage coming from Funks Creek and Stone  
10 Corral Creek at that point. As you mention, the Delevan  
11 Refuge is there, but you also have the Colusa Refuge and  
12 you have all the riparian habitat and ground --  
13 ecosystems below that area. So there is gonna be impact  
14 if you actually don't allow the water to come from Stone  
15 Corral and Funks.

16           In the area of the Colusa Basin Drain, from --  
17 they're -- they're natural intakes into the Colusa Basin  
18 Drain to Dunnigan. You know, my concern is that not  
19 only water right holders, but just the environmental  
20 impact of not having those seasonal flows, and how that  
21 relates to the recharge and actually water quality in  
22 generally in -- in the subbasin, because there is a  
23 known upwelling, and the upwelling is predominantly salt  
24 water, which has a hydro chemical reaction to redox, if  
25 you have lowering of water levels, the oxidation effect

1 of previously cloning salt -- salt water actually can  
2 lead to desorption of trace metals, like, around the  
3 Sutter Buttes, we have an arsenic problem.

4 So I'm gonna take the rest of this period to  
5 actually give you some sites that I want to put in the  
6 public record for your consideration, but I -- I do -- I  
7 am very concerned about groundwater quality degradation,  
8 especially from the public supply system of Williams.  
9 We have both the sustainability, but also a quality  
10 issues.

11 PDS level is a possibility as it creates metal  
12 impacts, and so -- you know, instead of taking up more  
13 of your time, but those are my general comments, and I  
14 will follow-up in more detail, and I appreciate the  
15 opportunity to comment. Thank you.

16 SARA KATZ: Thank you, Ben.

17 If there are others who would like to read  
18 formal public comments into the record, please raise  
19 your hand.

20 The meeting is scheduled to be completed at  
21 11:00 a.m. As such, we will be staying on to accept  
22 formal comments until 11:00 a.m. And remember, please,  
23 raise your hand. And the directions to do so are on the  
24 screen.

25 If you're on the phone, you just dial star 9