

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 have given you extra time.

2 BEN BACHER: -- due to the outbreak of these
3 low and warm conditions. I strongly -- I'm wrapping it
4 up right now.

5 I strongly urge you to reject this project,
6 Sites Reservoir, at a time when salmon, delta smelt, and
7 disease --

8 SARA KATZ: Thank you, Dan. Our next --

9 DAN BACHER: Are threatened with extension.
10 We need more water for imperial fish populations. It's
11 not --

12 SARA KATZ: Thank you, Dan. Thank you, Dan.
13 Our next speaker will be Ben King.

14 Ben, if you could spell your full name and
15 unmute yourself.

16 BEN KING: Am I -- am I on?

17 SARA KATZ: You are, Ben, yes.

18 BEN KING: Yeah, sorry about that. So,
19 I'll -- I'll be quick, because I've already spoken. But
20 I just wanted to get in public record the comments I
21 submitted -- the questions I submitted before public
22 comment period began. So, I -- I like the -- I liked
23 the consideration of three state actions -- state
24 actions taken in recent -- the extra 2021.

25 One, is the implementation of the CV salts

1 initiative. I'd like to consider that Sacramento -- the
2 Colusa Subbasin is now a priority basin. And if the
3 focus is just on nitrates and is not focused on the
4 actual concurring contaminates, which I think will be --
5 could be adversely impacted if there was any significant
6 seepage from Sites.

7 Secondly, the State -- the Department of Water
8 Resources just adopted the human right to water in its
9 handbook, and then you can -- any future considerations
10 have to take into consideration human right to water.
11 And my consider -- my concern there is, if there's
12 adverse impact on public supply systems and domestic
13 wells, down -- downhill from the reservoir, that that
14 actually will impact human right to water. And since it
15 is human right -- right and high is a beneficial use, it
16 really should have a very high standard when it comes to
17 potentially adverse effects and mitigation.

18 And the third is the Water Board's recent
19 resolution on racial equity. That is tied to human
20 right to water, but also just the economic benefits in
21 the construction and the impacts that may have on people
22 of color in the Subbasin, since Colusa is majority
23 non-white residents. Colusa County is -- who are
24 usually lower social economics, and also may be even
25 more susceptible to poor water -- water quality, like --

1 like the areas. The public supply system for Grimms
2 actually has arsenic contamination. So if you would --
3 and then my last one -- my last comment, actually, is
4 regarding the access to the public recreation space
5 around the reservoir.

6 I guess my question is, if you don't go ahead
7 with the bridge, will the public really be able to enjoy
8 the recreation? How accessible will that be on the west
9 side of the reservoir?

10 So, thank you for indulging me with the extra
11 time, but I just want to complete my -- that part, and
12 then, otherwise, I'll follow-up with more comment. But,
13 you know, I -- I believe that -- I'm supportive of the
14 project, provided that water rights and the environment
15 and the local economy is -- is mitigated. And we need
16 more -- we need more supply. And -- and I think
17 Colusa -- Colusa County should do its part for the State
18 and for the future water sustainability of the State,
19 but I am concerned about the issues that are raised as
20 followed. So, thank you.

21 SARA KATZ: Thank you, Ben.

22 We will be taking public comments for another
23 15 minutes. If you would like to have a comment
24 provided for the record, please raise your hand and we
25 will call on you.