

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 any organization you represent, and you can go ahead and
2 unmute yourself.

3 SHANNON WITTGEN: Okay. I hope I'm unmuted
4 here.

5 SARA KATZ: You are.

6 SHANNON WITTGEN: My -- my name is Shannon
7 Wittgen, S-h-a-n-n-o-n, Wittgen, W-i-t-t-g-e-n, and I
8 don't represent any organization. I'm just a private
9 California resident.

10 I live in Mountain House, California. I drive
11 over the California Canal and the Mendoza Canal every
12 day, and I just wanted to -- from my perspective, just
13 reiterate that we should be listening more to Native
14 voices when it comes to land management and water
15 management. I just wanted to chime in there and -- and
16 just kind of let everyone know that this is something
17 that is final to us all, and I think we should be
18 looking to them for leadership. Thanks.

19 SARA KATZ: Thank you, Shannon.

20 We have a hand raised, and the speaker is
21 Garbin. Garbin, I believe you've spoken before, so,
22 again, if your name for the record and any organization
23 you represent, and you are ready to unmute.

24 GARBIN: Yeah. I can't really hear you, so
25 I'm hoping you -- you can hear me.

1 The only thing that I -- I want to add is
2 that the -- the format for this, while it's good for
3 those people who were able to find out about -- I found
4 out about this by -- via email. I'm -- I'm quite
5 confident that if this was actually widely publicized in
6 communities that would be directly effected by this
7 onerous attempts, you'd have a lot more people stepping
8 up and expressing their opposition to this.

9 This plan's gonna hurt a lot of people, the
10 environment, salmon runs, Indigenous people, poor
11 people, you know, who rely on -- you know, are living in
12 these areas where wells are gonna be going dry and all
13 the rest of it from the theft of this water. And I
14 think if you had reached out more to the community who
15 is gonna be directly affected by this offense, that you
16 would have a -- a much greater turnout of folks in
17 direct opposition of this. And, you know, it's just --
18 it's just -- it's just sad that -- that those people
19 who, I think, are gonna be really damaged by this don't
20 really know what's happening. And I don't know if
21 that's by design, by accident, but -- but it's --
22 it's -- it's -- it's not right.

23 This is a huge expense. It will affect large
24 parts of Cal -- of the State. It will affect people's
25 enjoyment of the outdoors. It will affect species, not

1 only the salmon, many species that rely on water that's
2 gonna be put into a -- as I understand -- a private
3 reservoir for almond and -- and rice production, crops
4 that probably shouldn't be growing in the middle of a
5 desert. It's just -- it's just wrong the way this is
6 being handled, and more people need to know about it,
7 and there should be a greater outreach to those folks
8 who are gonna be directly affected in a negative manner.
9 Thank you.

10 SARA KATZ: Thank you, Garvin.

11 If we could advance to the last slide, please.
12 You can comment after today's meeting by providing --
13 provide -- providing a written comment.

14 Email your comments to
15 EIR-EIS-comments@sitesproject.org. Or you can mail your
16 comments to the Sites Project Authority at P.O. Box 517,
17 Maxwell, California 95955, or to the Bureau of
18 Reclamation at 2800 Cottage Way, Suite W-2830,
19 Sacramento, California 95825.

20 Comments must be postmarked or received by 5
21 p.m. Pacific Standard Time on January 11th, 2022.

22 Thank you again for your participation in this
23 public meeting.

24 As a reminder, if anyone joined late or missed
25 the presentation, the recording of the meeting