

UnCodeble

Sites Reservoir Project
Draft Environmental Impact Report/
Environmental Impact Statement

December 5, 2017

1:00 p.m.

Public Comment

gled
5.9.19

gled
5.6.19

1 for reasons that are relevant to our industry in terms
2 of construction.

3 But there's a bigger idea here too that I want
4 to leave the two of you with, and folks in the room.

5 Adding capacity to the State's water system as
6 a whole helps construction throughout the State because
7 State law requires an identified water source before you
8 build -- before anybody wants to build anything public
9 or private, residential or commercial, so --

10 And ensuring for the many, many reasons that
11 there's added reservoir capacity for ecological and
12 environmental reasons, it's important to remember that
13 the construction of the project will help the local
14 economy through construction workers being put to work
15 and help construction throughout the State so that we
16 always have identified water sources for anything that
17 doesn't involve a water project that needs to be
18 constructed over the next hundred years or so.

19 So for those reasons, we're here to support the
20 project, and thank you both for your hard work on this
21 project and the DEIR.]

22 Thank you.]

23 [ANDREW MEREDITH: [Thank you. My name is Andrew
24 Meredith. I live up in rural Tehama County located
25 about two-and-a-half -- two hours north -- north of

SRP 01/11

Unrecorded

1 Sacramento here.

2 I live on the west side of I-5 along one of the
3 major tributaries that feeds into the Sacramento River
4 called Thomas Creek.)

5 [I'm here today in full support of the project.

6 I am a representative of the Northeastern California
7 Building and Construction Trades Council.

8 I want to talk for a couple of minutes about
9 the socioeconomic benefits that this project will have,
10 but I first want to touch on the personal stuff as
11 somebody living, you know, kind of along the shadow of
12 some of these tributaries.

13 Hearing the speaker get up and talk about how
14 we need to let the Sacramento River flood more often is
15 an argument that I don't think is going to carry a lot
16 of weight with voters in California that overwhelmingly
17 supported the Water Bond.

18 I want to commend Mr. Watson for the work that
19 he's done on this project. This project is essentially
20 what the voters were asking for when they passed the
21 Water Bond. This checks the boxes.

22 This provides environmental benefits to the
23 fish and other species downstream. It provides flood
24 control protections for an area of California that's
25 already been identified by agencies as one of the most

235004

1 at-risk of catastrophic flooding downstream. That's
2 right here in the City of Sacramento.

3 It also provides recreational opportunities for
4 the hundreds of thousands of people that live north of
5 Sacramento and live -- patronize a facility like this.

6 But more importantly is it provides water
7 storage for all of California.

8 Mr. Watson and the people that are affiliated
9 with the JPA have done a tremendous job of bringing
10 together bipartisan support and support from all parts
11 of California. The Central Valley, the Southern part of
12 California, and even the North State.

13 The -- the farmers up north have stepped up,
14 and they've -- they've gone in line to purchase water.
15 I think that's a tremendous -- that's a tremendous
16 testament to how much support is out there for this
17 project.

18 And I think something like Sites Reservoir is
19 essentially the culmination of decades of lobbying from
20 the environmental community that said, if we have new
21 water storage, it needs to be off stream.

22 This project site, if you haven't seen it, it
23 is essentially a basin that will require very little
24 damming to make this basin turn into a reservoir. It
25 almost looks, when you look at it on a map, like it was

1 designed to be a reservoir. It's --

2 It's a site in California that you're not going
3 to find to -- to replace. There aren't locations like
4 this in California left where you're going to be able to
5 build a facility like this, store the amount of water
6 that we'll be able to store here, and displace so few
7 people and so few environmental species.]

8 So on a socioeconomic front, back when Shasta
9 Dam was constructed, it was unbelievable in terms of the
10 economic benefit that it had on the Redding community.

11 The benefits of Shasta Dam are still being --
12 they're still being experienced by the people that live
13 up in that area.

14 This construction project being close to a \$5
15 billion construction project is going to be monumental
16 for one of the poorest parts of California.

17 And let's not forget that the communities that
18 surround this reservoir are some of the poorest zip
19 codes, with some of the highest unemployment rates, some
20 of the lowest median incomes in the entire State of
21 California.

22 And I want to commend the Sites Reservoir JPA
23 for stepping up and saying that they are going to build
24 this construction project with local workers, they're
25 going to pay them a living wage, to make sure that not

720004

1 only is this project benefitting fish, it's not
2 benefitting farmers, and it's not just benefitting water
3 users downstream, it's going to benefit the construction
4 workers that get to work on this project for seven
5 years.

6 Although it will probably be the largest Public
7 Works project west of the Mississippi River.

8 So I don't think that we can ignore that.] I
9 understand that projects by and large like this are
10 never going to be completely perfect. You can't expect
11 them to be, but just remember, we've -- we've attempted
12 to conserve our way out of the water crisis in
13 California for almost five decades, and it's not
14 working.

15 The population continues to increase. We've
16 done a tremendous job as Californians trying to conserve
17 water, but the plain reality is, we have to create more
18 storage.

19 And I do not think that you will ever find a
20 more better example of a project to accomplish all of
21 these things in terms of environmental benefit,
22 recreational benefit, farming and irrigation benefit and
23 be able to generate this much flood control diversion
24 and this much water storage. I just don't think that
25 those locations exist anymore.

22000A (3)

1 So, again, I'm wholeheartedly in support of
2 this project, and I'm -- I'm ready to break ground on it
3 tomorrow.

4 Thank you.

5 MARK MULLINER: { My name's Mark Mulliner.

6 Business Manager, Plumbers and Pipefitters Local Union
7 228.

8 I'm go to speak first on a personal note.

9 I live on the Sacramento River, Woodson Bridge.
10 I've had a fishing guide license for a couple of years.
11 I fish Salmon fish up there. I've raised a family of
12 six up there on the river. I park my boat on the river
13 right behind my house, and the river means a lot to me,
14 on a personal note.

15 I have a lot of friends that are fishing
16 guides. I have a lot of different types of friends
17 that -- recreational use on the Sacramento.

18 [I want to say that I'm here -- and I'm here
19 supporting this because, one, it is a good project.
20 Environmentally I believe it's an excellent project,
21 and, two, because, yes, they've committed to have
22 skilled workers.

23 My training facility, is going to -- is -- for
24 several years is going to be bringing in new members
25 that are going to be from the area. Tehama County is

SRP0146

Unrecorded

7/20/09

{for plumbers}