

From: [loren.rhodes](#)
To: [DWR Delta Conveyance Scoping](#)
Subject: Delta tunnel project
Date: Thursday, March 19, 2020 12:11:34 PM

- With what water will future Delta tunnel and dams and reservoirs be able to operate?
- Will California's key water agencies, yours among them, conduct thorough, factual, and honest outreach to all communities, especially environmental justice and disadvantaged communities in their service areas regarding the costs of proposed projects and water outcomes?
- With lengthy and costly construction logistics, have California's key water agencies, yours among them, done the necessary "due diligence" studies to make fully informed decisions about a future Delta tunnel, dams, and reservoirs?
- Have these decisions been balanced with considerations for maintaining, retrofitting, repairing, and preserving existing water agencies' infrastructure, especially any future repairs and changes needed at Oroville Dam?

From: [Sherri Venezia](#)
To: [DWR Delta Conveyance Scoping](#)
Subject: Delta water conveyance comments
Date: Thursday, March 19, 2020 2:10:53 PM

To Whom it May Concern:

I am a member of Restore the Delta (RTD); my position “advocates for local Delta stakeholders to ensure that they have a direct impact on water management decisions affecting the water quality and well-being of their communities, and water sustainability policies for all Californians. We work through public education and outreach so that all Californians recognize the Sacramento-San Joaquin Bay Delta as part of California’s natural heritage, deserving of restoration. We fight for a Delta whose waters are fishable, swimmable, drinkable, and farmable, supporting the health of the San Francisco Bay-Delta Estuary, and the ocean beyond. Our coalition envisions the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta as a place where a vibrant local economy, tourism, recreation, farming, wildlife, and fisheries thrive as a result of resident efforts to protect our waterway commons.”

These points have serious research support. Please consider these positions in your decision making.

Sherri Venezia
Davis, CA. 95616

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Roger Zeedik](#)
To: [DWR Delta Conveyance Scoping](#)
Subject: Environmental Review -- Single Tunnel Project
Date: Thursday, March 19, 2020 11:22:21 AM

I am writing in order to add my voice to those concerned that the single tunnel review should begin with scientifically based primacy for the long term health of the Delta. Political pressure from the federal government to appease water users to the south should not be the basis for decisions to be made.

Like others, I find the reporting in the Editorial Section of the [San Jose Mercury News](#) on January 17, 2020, to be compelling.

Thank you.

Roger Zeedik

From: [Hart, Iain](#)
To: [DWR Delta Conveyance Scoping](#)
Cc: [Agdaian, Tigran](#)
Subject: Rep. Garamendi: Public Comment on Delta Conveyance Scoping.
Date: Friday, March 20, 2020 12:05:40 PM
Attachments: [20200320 Rep. Garamendi - public comment on Delta tunnel EIR scoping.pdf](#)

Please see the attached letter with enclosures, which Congressman Garamendi submits as a public comment for the scoping period on the Delta conveyance project.

Thank you,

Iain Hart
Legislative Director
Congressman John Garamendi (D-CA03)
2368 Rayburn HOB, Washington, DC 20515
Main: (202) 225-1880

*Please note our new office location: 2368 RHOB

JOHN GARAMENDI
CALIFORNIA, 3RD DISTRICT

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March 20, 2020

Ms. Karla Nemeth, Director
California Department of Water Resources
1416 9th Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Environmental Impact Report for Delta Conveyance Project

Dear Director Nemeth:

I am deeply disappointed that the State of California is not examining a potential western route for the new Delta conveyance project. This is unacceptable. I urge you to reconsider, as part of the environmental planning process.

The map released with the “Notice of Preparation of the Environmental Impact Report for the Delta Conveyance Project” shows only two proposed routes: a “central tunnel corridor” and an “eastern tunnel corridor.” Any honest planning process under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) demands that state agencies evaluate *all* potentially feasible routes for any new Delta conveyance project and their impacts. Your CEQA process must include the western route utilizing existing conveyance infrastructure like the Sacramento Deep Water Ship Channel.

If your Department refuses to do this, then you owe Delta residents and the people of California an explanation in writing. You must explain when the decision was made to not consider the western route, by whom, and why. To my knowledge, no such explanation has been provided by the state to date. This raises serious concerns about a lack of public transparency.

Proponents of the now-defunct Twin Tunnels project also failed to seriously consider a western route. Instead, they spent more than \$280 million in pursuit of a multibillion-dollar boondoggle that will never be built. Enclosed are my May 8, 2019 letter to Governor Newsom and my February 7, 2020 public comment on the “draft Water Resilience Portfolio” outlining the numerous advantages of a western route for any new Delta conveyance project.

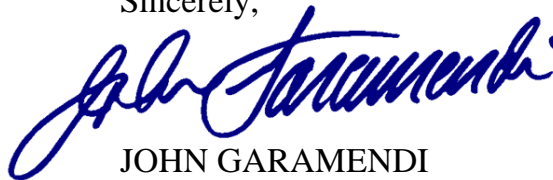
Governor Newsom’s executive order (N-10-19) issued on April 29, 2019, directed state agencies to reassess both the 2016 California Water Plan and “current planning to modernize conveyance through the Bay-Delta with a single new tunnel project.” I do not see how your Department can fulfill that gubernatorial directive without at least considering a western route as you prepare the environmental impact report for the Delta conveyance project.

Significant feasibility and scoping work for the western option has already been completed in the Department's November 2009 conceptual engineering report, as part of the state's then-Delta Habitat Conservation and Conveyance Program, and the analysis for the Bay-Delta Program (CALFED) in October 1997.

Any effort to modernize the Delta water system as directed in the Governor's executive order must include an honest and complete study of the western conveyance route. Again, I urge you to fully consider the western option and analyze its pros and cons relative to the "central tunnel corridor" and "eastern tunnel corridor" proposals in any final environmental impact report.

Please do not hesitate to contact me to discuss these matters further. I submit this letter as part of the public scoping period for the Department's environmental planning process for the proposed Delta conveyance project. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



JOHN GARAMENDI
Member of Congress

CC: The Honorable Gavin Newsom, Governor of California
Secretary Wade Crowfoot, California Natural Resources Agency

JOHN GARAMENDI
CALIFORNIA, 3RD DISTRICT

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May 8, 2019

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor of California
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Newsom:

I am very pleased by the Department of Water Resources' formal withdrawal of permitting applications for the Twin Tunnels (WaterFix Project), following your April 29 executive order. As your Administration begins the renewed environmental review and planning process for a smaller, single conveyance project, I urge you in the strongest possible terms to consider an alternative route along the westside of the Delta. Enclosed is my "Little Sip, Big Gulp: A Water Plan for All of California," detailing the westside proposal.

A westside route utilizing the Sacramento Deep Water Ship Channel and then continuing southward to the Tracy pumps, using existing conveyance wherever possible, is the best way to minimize impacts on productive agricultural land, flood risk, and the environment. Indeed, a westside route for a single, right-sized pipeline at no more than 3,000 cubic feet per second (CFS) design capacity is the *only* project that can earn the support of Delta communities and landowners, including me.

The Sacramento Ship Channel ends 25 miles south near Rio Vista, where a pressurized pipeline spanning a mere 12 miles beneath the Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers could deliver water along the eastside of the Old River channel leading to the Tracy pumps. The westside, single conveyance proposal was originally developed with support from environmental groups and Delta water users when I served in state government during the early 1990s. Now nearly three decades later, the westside proposal has withstood the test of time and may finally come into its own with your support.

Proponents of the now-defunct Twin Tunnels proposal failed to even consider a westside route, instead spending more than \$280 million in pursuit of a multibillion-dollar boondoggle that will never be built. This money could have instead funded much-needed upgrades and repairs to Delta levees, which must be maintained to provide flood protection and support continued water conveyance southward.

Again, I urge you to give all due consideration to a westside route for the smaller, single conveyance project. I stand ready to work with you to advance a westside route that meets our state's future water needs and safeguards the Delta. Thank you for your leadership and consideration.

Sincerely,

JOHN GARAMENDI
Member of Congress

CC: Director Karla Nemeth, California Department of Water Resources

JOHN GARAMENDI
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February 7, 2020

Secretary Wade Crowfoot
California Natural Resources Agency

Secretary Jared Blumenfeld
California Environmental Protection Agency

Secretary Karen Ross
California Department of Food and Agriculture

Dear Secretaries Crowfoot, Blumenfeld, and Ross:

I welcome this opportunity to formally comment on the draft Water Resilience Portfolio developed pursuant to Governor Newsom's executive order (N-10-19). As a former state legislator, Deputy Secretary of the Interior during the Clinton Administration, and Lieutenant Governor, I am very pleased to see the state refocus on meeting California's long-term water needs.

Sites Reservoir Project:

I strongly support the Newsom Administration's stated commitment in the draft Portfolio to accelerate state review of the Sites Reservoir Project. I am pleased to see the state give Sites Reservoir the attention and prioritization it deserves. California has not built a new major reservoir in decades, despite continued population growth, increasing demands on our limited water supply, and uncertainty due to climate change bringing more erratic rainstorms, less snowpack, and prolonged drought. Our state's largest reservoir, the Sierra snowpack, continues to be significantly reduced even during wet years, making it critical to capture more water from rainfall. Accelerated state review of Sites Reservoir, as outlined in the draft Portfolio, is what is required to get this off-stream reservoir built.

Sites Reservoir will address many water supply and environmental challenges by increasing off-stream storage. Flood flows on the Sacramento River will be diverted into the reservoir and stored for later ecological and consumptive uses. Importantly, Sites

Reservoir will allow more cold water to be held back in federal and state reservoirs for release during drier months to support endangered salmon and other fish species.

To date, the Joint Powers Authority has secured more than \$1.2 billion in public funding for the Sites Reservoir Project, including \$816 million from the state's Water Storage Investment Program (2014 Proposition 1) and \$449 million in low-interest financing from the U.S. Department of Agriculture announced in 2018. Additional non-government funding commitments sufficient to build the reservoir have been made by water agencies in northern and southern California.

In Congress, I am working to secure additional federal funding from the Bureau of Reclamation for Sites Reservoir. The state's accelerated review of this off-stream reservoir is essential to securing federal participation in the project. I urge you to prioritize Sites Reservoir in the final Portfolio and stand ready to support the Governor's efforts for this project.

Delta Conveyance:

I am pleased that the draft Water Resilience Portfolio reaffirmed the Governor's commitment to abandon the Twin Tunnels (WaterFix) project and consider alternatives. Unfortunately, the planning and scoping process for the now-defunct Twin Tunnels failed to adequately consider a western route and instead focusing solely on the eastern alignment for the tunnels. On May 9, 2019, I wrote to Governor Newsom urging him to consider a smaller conveyance project along the westside of the Delta. In the letter, I outlined the following:

- Utilize the Port of West Sacramento and the Deep Water Ship Channel as the first segment of the western conveyance facility, by installing a fish screen and low-head pump at the existing lock on the Sacramento River and allow water to flow into the port and channel.
- Build a lock at the southern end of the Ship Channel 25 miles south near Rio Vista to separate the Sacramento River water in the channel from the water and species in the Delta, thereby safeguarding smelt or other endangered fish from entrainment in the pump located north of the lock. This ship lock would also provide passage for ships transiting to the Port of West Sacramento.
- Construct a pressurized pipeline, sized between 3,000 to 4,000 cubic feet per second (CFS), from the pump north of the ship lock to carry water to three new reservoirs (Bacon Island, Holland Tract, and Webb Tract) in the central Delta,

which are already owned by the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California and could be permitted for water storage. These islands are strategically lined up to provide direct access to the pumps for the Central Valley and State Water Projects near Tracy. An alternative is to locate the pipeline along the eastside of the Old River channel to the Tracy pumps.

Locating the conveyance facility on the westside of the Delta and using existing conveyance, wherever possible, may prove to be less expensive and certainly would avoid the eastern alignment's damaging impacts on historic communities, the fragile Delta ecosystem, and productive agricultural land. The western alignment would result in less land subsidence and flood risk.

Any effort to modernize the Delta water system must include an honest and complete study of the western conveyance route. Attention must be paid to the November 2009 conceptual engineering report completed for the Department of Water Resources on the western isolated conveyance facility. This 2009 report was part of the state's Delta Habitat Conservation and Conveyance Program. As noted in the report, an analysis for a proposed conveyance project along the western perimeter of the Delta utilizing the Sacramento Deep Water Ship Channel was also completed in October 1997 for the Bay-Delta Program (CALFED) and found to be viable.

The eastside canal option contemplated in these state documents was the infamous "Peripheral Canal," which was soundly rejected by California voters in a 1982 ballot referendum (Proposition 9). In subsequent years, the open canal and eastside route became the extraordinarily expensive Twin Tunnels (WaterFix) project.

Proponents of the now-defunct Twin Tunnels failed to seriously consider a westside route, instead spending more than \$280 million in pursuit of a multibillion-dollar boondoggle that will never be built. This money could have funded much-needed upgrades and repairs to key Delta levees that provide the channel through which water flows to the Tracy pumps for the Central Valley and State Water Projects. The existing water supply system and every proposed alternative depend upon these levees and channels for most of the water pumped from the Delta estuary. These key Delta levees must be maintained.

As you finalize the Water Resilience Portfolio, I urge you to carefully consider an alternative route along the westside of the Delta as detailed on pages 7-14 of my enclosed "Little Sip, Big Gulp: A Water Plan for All of California." Much of the feasibility and scoping work for this western option has already been done for you by the state in the

aforementioned documents and analyses. I stand ready to work with you to advance a westside route that meets our state's future water needs and safeguards the Delta.

Permitting for Environmental Projects:

Lastly, I was pleased to see that the draft Portfolio directs state agencies to “support the development of expedited and cost-effective permitting mechanisms for common types of restoration and enhancement projects.” The current permitting regime is not well equipped to deal with projects designed to improve habitat for endangered species or increase their abundance.

In my Congressional district, the Lookout Slough Tidal Habitat Restoration and Flood Improvement Project in Yolo and Solano Counties provides a case study for why a better permitting mechanism is necessary. This multi-benefit project for the Department of Water Resources will provide for increased flood capacity in the Yolo Bypass and restore 3,000 acres of Delta smelt habitat, as called for in the 2008 biological opinions.

After three years under development, this restoration project is now at a place where permits are being submitted. Despite input from multiple agencies throughout this process, these same agencies are reportedly contemplating sequential review of permits rather than parallel review. A sequential review is unnecessary and could extend the permitting timeline by more than a year. Any delay would be frustrating, given that this project seeks to implement habitat restoration required under the 2008 biological opinions, now more than a decade later.

Projects like Lookout Slough designed to provide ecological benefits should not be forced into the same permitting process as projects with detrimental environmental impacts that must be mitigated. An expedited and cost-effective permitting mechanism for environmental projects as outlined by the draft Portfolio (section 13.2) would help to address this problem and get more habitat restoration projects underway.

As you finalize the Water Resilience Portfolio, I hope you give weight to these critical issues for our state. Please do not hesitate to contact me to discuss these matters further. I look forward to reviewing the final portfolio. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



JOHN GARAMENDI
Member of Congress

From: [Sandy Rhodes](#)
To: [DWR Delta Conveyance Scoping](#)
Subject: Delta tunnel project
Date: Thursday, March 19, 2020 12:15:47 PM

- With what water will future Delta tunnel and dams and reservoirs be able to operate?
- Will California's key water agencies, yours among them, conduct thorough, factual, and honest outreach to all communities, especially environmental justice and disadvantaged communities in their service areas regarding the costs of proposed projects and water outcomes?
- With lengthy and costly construction logistics, have California's key water agencies, yours among them, done the necessary "due diligence" studies to make fully informed decisions about a future Delta tunnel, dams, and reservoirs?
- Have these decisions been balanced with considerations for maintaining, retrofitting, repairing, and preserving existing water agencies' infrastructure, especially any future repairs and changes needed at Oroville Dam?

1 to consider -- to continue using L.A. as an excuse
2 should stop.

3 MS. BARBIERI: Thank you for your comment.

4 Mr. Albert, before you begin, just a couple
5 things I should have mentioned. Maybe I did. I think I
6 meant to, but I didn't. We do have a court reporter, so
7 our court reporter is taking all of your comments. We
8 are also audio recording, so we have that as a backup
9 just in case. So I wanted to let you know that.

10 Please feel free to move the mic to your height.
11 I didn't want that to go unsaid. And I think that was
12 it, other than I wanted to call up the next three
13 people; Danielle Rey Frank, Margaret Robbins and
14 Monique -- again, I apologize if I don't pronounce your
15 names correctly -- Sonokey. So if you could cue up,
16 that would be great.

17 Mr. Albert, please proceed.

18 MR. ALBERT: Heinrich Albert. I'm speaking
19 today on behalf of Friends of the River. Earlier
20 speakers are, in the clarifying questions, raised this
21 issue of will this project result in additional
22 diversions from the system. And I think that that is
23 really a key question. Previous incarnations of around
24 or under the Delta conveyance have advertised that, "Oh,
25 no, this is just for reliability. No more water is

1 going to be taken out of the system."

2 I understand that recently the state water
3 project contractors got rid of this reliability fig
4 leaf, which I think a lot of us were always skeptical
5 about anyways and are only going to pay if there is a
6 promise of more water for them.

7 Now, given the situation that there is tons of
8 independent science that says that the Delta, through
9 the Delta, downstream of the Delta and the tributaries
10 of the Delta need greater flows in order to protect the
11 native fish and other riparian species that are
12 dependent on those environments, using this project to
13 divert more water, I think is unconscionable. Really,
14 this cannot happen. This is just putting another nail
15 in the coffin of this critical environment.

16 And you mentioned the existing -- the Endangered
17 Species Act and biological opinions as things that will
18 limit the amount of water that will be taken out. But
19 given what the Trump administration is doing, and
20 unfortunately, the state's failure so far to act to
21 oppose those biological opinions in court, you know,
22 that first that came out, but then Westland said, "No,
23 no, no. Don't do that." And I don't see it happening.

24 So given that, and given DWR's recent proposal
25 for additional pumping from the Delta, there is nothing

1 to stop just huge diversions from this system, greatly
2 increased diversions when it's so clear and our own
3 state water board has made it so clear, we need greater
4 in stream flows, we need greater flows through the
5 Delta, not less.

6 Well, what I'm trying to say really quickly,
7 we're doing things out of order. It does not make sense
8 to invest in tunnels that have greater capacity than
9 what they can actually transmit in an environmentally
10 sound way. To say we're going to wait on the operations
11 plan until we've already got this investment is not
12 realistic to think we're going to build a big tunnel,
13 but we'll only use a little bit of it.

14 MS. BARBIERI: Thank you for your comments.

15 Is it Ms. Frank or Ms. Rey-Frank?

16 MS. FRANK: Ms. Frank.

17 MS. BARBIERI: Ms. Frank, yeah. Thank you.

18 MS. FRANK: My name is Danielle Ray, and I'm a
19 member of the Hoopa tribe. We're, like, five hours up
20 north, and we live on the Trinity River, which is a
21 tributary to the Klamath, and we weren't one of the
22 tribes who got a letter, even though we are greatly
23 affected by this, well, proposition.

24 We use -- we live on the Trinity River, which we
25 use for -- it's, like, our lifeline. We use it for

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

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DELTA CONVEYANCE PROJECT

CEQA PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING

CERTIFIED COPY

LOCATION: STATE OF CALIFORNIA
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
1001 I Street
Second Floor Auditorium
Sacramento, California 95814

DATE: Monday, February 3, 2020

Reported by: LORI G. PINKERTON, CSR 6031

1 Mr. Armstrong.

2 MR. ARMSTRONG: I'm representing -- this is John
3 Armstrong. I'm representing the Sierra Club. They're
4 opposed to this tunnel for a lot of reasons. One people
5 are most familiar with is related to wildlife, but
6 they're also opposed to it because the benefactors -- or
7 beneficiaries are mostly domestic and foreign aggregates
8 in the Central Valley, and the MWD, the Metropolitan
9 Water District.

10 Most of what agriculture comes up with in
11 California is exported, like 80 percent of the almonds
12 and a good 50 percent of everything that comes out of
13 Imperial Valley and Central Valley exports, so it's a
14 massive loss of what they call embedded water and the
15 associated water with -- not just the embedded directly
16 in the product, but the footprint, the whole footprint
17 is huge, represents a huge mineral and soil water loss,
18 permanent loss of California resource.

19 And there is no profits there in the programs
20 between the domestic and foreign aggregates and CA
21 citizens. Where is the profit sharing?

22 Also, MWD, Metropolitan Water District has
23 recently been saying that they have more water than they
24 need in press releases, and last week they said they had
25 more water than they need. So rather than decrease the

1 amount that state water project furnishes for So Cal,
2 rather than return water to the Delta, they want --
3 they're planning on instituting more penalties and rate
4 increases to maintain status quo.

5 Thank you.

6 MS. BARBIERI: Thank you.

7 Ms. Moloney.

8 MS. MOLONEY: Hi. Thank you. My name is Emily
9 Moloney, and I'm here representing the Buena Vista
10 Rancheria of Miwok Indians, and we just want to thank
11 you for letting us speak to you.

12 The Buena Vista Rancheria of Miwok Indians has
13 several concerns we wish DWR will seriously consider,
14 and we hope that you consider a no-tunnel alternative.
15 In the event that there is a no-tunnel alternative
16 considered, we hope that you consider these things.

17 First, cultural resources. We request that the
18 DWR utilize tribal knowledge to inform the project
19 footprint as to eliminate disturbances to cultural
20 sites. Having cultural monitors on the ground helping
21 inform where to not disturb is very important. Having
22 monitors on the ground to make sure that during
23 ground-disturbing activities, no cultural resources are
24 impacted. We request that DWR consider alternatives to
25 reduce or eliminate impacts to tribal resources.

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

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Reported by: LORI G. PINKERTON, CSR 6031

1 speakers; John Armstrong, Emily Moloney and Matt
2 Conover. If you could cue up, that would be great.

3 And whenever you're ready.

4 MS. BARRIGAN-PARRILLA: Good afternoon. Barbara
5 Barrigan-Parrilla with Restore The Delta. A year ago we
6 said we would keep an open mind regarding moving forward
7 with the single tunnel project. Sadly, we're seeing the
8 exact same mistakes being made with this NOP. We think
9 the NOP is inadequate, because first off, it doesn't
10 answer if the Central Valley project is in or out of the
11 project.

12 The statements that the project won't take any
13 additional water are not accurate and forthright. The
14 new biological opinions and the long-term operations
15 agreement are being set up to increase exports and
16 decrease flows, so it doesn't matter if it's in the
17 project. It's being done elsewhere.

18 There is no discussion in the NOP of Delta
19 protections. Those decisions are being outsourced to
20 other agencies, including levies, flood control, water
21 quality. They'll be funded at a lower level, and they
22 will be last in the list of things to get done by the
23 state after the tunnel. That is not a co-equal goal
24 strategy.

25 There is no scoping for total infrastructure.

1 Impacts will be cumulative, including air quality
2 between all the air district regions within the Delta.
3 Scoping for all impacts from the Trinity and Klamath
4 area for our tribal brothers and sisters to
5 environmental justice communities in San Diego where
6 they are already paying for the highest rates for water
7 have to be done.

8 The water portfolio did not answer water
9 availability. It did not provide a needs assessment for
10 the tunnel. The EIR will fail if that is not done. The
11 EIR is tied to the NOP. There is no contract presently
12 between the state water contractors. They are kind of
13 rolling all over each other about who is going to get
14 what share of water. The public needs to know who's
15 going to pay, and we need to know what the adjusted
16 costs are with inflation, because the last estimate was
17 based on 2018 dollars.

18 To our union brothers and sisters, please
19 understand for every million dollars of public money
20 spent, there are 14 to 18 jobs made. We have thousands
21 of water projects to keep you busy in California. The
22 tunnel will make 4 to 8 jobs. It won't solve the
23 problem and the jobs won't be in your communities.

24 Thank you.

25 MS. BARBIERI: Thank you.

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

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Reported by: LORI G. PINKERTON, CSR 6031

1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 ---o0o---

3
4
5 MR. BAUKER: Yes. My name is Dan Bauker. I'm
6 editor of the Fishermen Magazine, also outside writer
7 for The Stockton Record, and I wanted to know if there
8 is any preferred alternative between the two tunnels,
9 the two conveyance paths. Do you prefer one over --
10 because other processes, the one that preceded this of
11 the twin tunnels did have a preferred alternative.

12 MS. BUCKMAN: So right now, our proposed project
13 includes either option for a corridor for the conveyance
14 tunnel. We do not have a preferred one between the two.
15 When we have the draft EIR, we will identify a preferred
16 alternative, but at this point, these are the two
17 corridors we've proposed for comment and we don't have a
18 preference.

19 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Ms. Buckman, you listed one of
20 the functions of this conveyance project as allowing the
21 state to capture more water at times of flood flows
22 basically. You were still going through the same pumps
23 ultimately, so could you briefly outline how this would
24 allow the capture of greater amounts of flood water?

25 MS. BUCKMAN: So I think that there may be some

1 MR. BAUKER: Hi, my name is Dan Bauker, editor
2 of The Fishermen's Magazine, and I'm a board member of
3 the California Water Impact Network, Water For Fish and
4 I'm also on the advisory council of the Save the
5 American River Association.

6 I've written hundreds and hundreds of articles
7 about the Delta tunnels and now its successor, the Delta
8 tunnels. I've -- after interviewing many tribal
9 leaders, fishermen, Delta farmers, Delta residents,
10 elected leaders and just general members of the public,
11 I conclude that this project, whether it's one tunnel or
12 two tunnels, makes absolutely no scientific, financial
13 or economic sense.

14 I have numerous times asked the question that
15 not one single official with the Department of Water
16 Resources, State of California has been able to answer
17 and I want that answered finally. And that's give me
18 one example in U.S. or world history where a project
19 that diverts more water from a river or estuary has
20 resulted in the restoration of that river or estuary.

21 I think the reason why nobody has answered that
22 question is because there is no example of this, and
23 based on the fact that this whole project makes
24 absolutely no sense and they can't answer this question,
25 the project needs to be halted. In other words, there

1 is no good Delta tunnel. The entire project based on
2 it's very premise of its existence is absolutely wrong.

3 MS. BARBIERI: Thank you.

4 Mr. Dunlap, before you begin, I just want to
5 call up Bob Saunders and Roberto Valdez. If you could
6 cue up.

7 And please proceed when you're ready.

8 MR. DUNLAP: James Dunlap, Yurok tribal member.
9 First, the whole issue of your meetings, you know, I
10 want to call bullshit that there is nothing north of the
11 state, because you've seemingly purposely scheduled
12 these meetings for the beneficiaries of the south state
13 that will get the water and nothing for those adversely
14 affected in the north state.

15 Now, that's either a gross oversight or a
16 willful intention, and that needs to be remedied. The
17 tunnel is wrong on just about every level you can think
18 of except those that will directly make money. Money
19 you cannot eat. Money will not preserve the ecosystems
20 of that Delta. They will not preserve our rivers.
21 Money will not preserve our fish.

22 These things, you know, are what you're going to
23 have to live with in making the decision to move forward
24 with a Delta project. Okay? Those are going to be
25 listed on your scriptures on your tombstones, you know.

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

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DELTA CONVEYANCE PROJECT

CEQA PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING

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1 MS. BARBIERI: But don't forget, you have
2 written comments, too, so please include all of that.

3 Yeah. Please proceed.

4 MR. BLOOMSTINE: Hi. Thank you so much. Todd
5 Bloomstine representing the Southern California
6 Contractors Association. We're an association of about
7 300 members, engineering contractors that work across
8 the state, but based primarily in Southern California.

9 I want to state that we support the
10 administration's Delta conveyance project, increasing
11 the reliability is very important to SCCA as well as
12 balancing the strong protections for the Delta's
13 ecosystem.

14 One of the issues I think really should be
15 clarified through this process is emphasizing that the
16 tunnels would be used during high flows only. Whatever
17 you can do to emphasize that it would be used for high
18 flows I think is important.

19 Thank you very much for your time. Appreciate
20 your efforts.

21 MS. BARBIERI: Thank you.

22 Mr. Kinney.

23 MR. KINNEY: (Unintelligible statement.)

24 Hello, my name is Isaac Kinney. I'm from the
25 villages of Weitchpec, Hectoo (phonetic spelling) and

1 modeling. Again, this is the beginning phases, and we
2 would encourage you to submit specific comments on the
3 document. But we are planning to look at existing
4 facilities and their existing capabilities.

5 MR. DURBIN: With them breaking ground, we are
6 anticipating more storage there. So I just want to make
7 sure that's part of the whole big picture we're looking
8 at already.

9 MS. BUCKMAN: If you could submit that in a
10 comment, that would be very helpful. Thank you.

11 MS. BARBIERI: Next, please.

12 MS. CHICHIZOLE: Hi, I wanted to know if -- my
13 name is Regina Chichizole. I wanted to know if you are
14 planning to have any meetings north of here. Right now,
15 there is no meetings scheduled in the north part of the
16 state, and I know a lot of people from Redding and
17 Trinity River areas are very concerned, and I had heard
18 that there is rumors there will be north state hearings.

19 MS. BUCKMAN: So at this point, we don't have
20 anything scheduled to the north. If anyone has
21 something compelling that they would like to suggest,
22 they can e-mail that in as a comment. But generally, we
23 plan to prepare these seven meetings. We would also
24 really appreciate opportunities to go speak at other
25 meetings in other ways to provide information to people,

1 so any suggestions are welcome.

2 MS. CHICHIZOLE: Okay. Well, there is a lot of
3 people here who drove about five hours to get here today
4 because they wanted to comment, so it would be really
5 great if you guys did consider that. Thank you.

6 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Hello, my question is I wanted
7 to see you guys' involvement with locally, regional and
8 federally recognized tribes up until now. And again,
9 how you all, especially without having a meeting north
10 of here, how you all are ensuring free and prior
11 informed consent from the indigenous peoples of the
12 area.

13 MS. BUCKMAN: So tribal involvement follows a
14 slightly different process. So because we have AB-52 in
15 place, and also the Department of Water Resources has a
16 tribal engagement policy, we use those processes to
17 engage with tribes. So we sent out 177 letters to
18 tribal representatives to try to initiate consultation
19 with those tribes. I think that was 117 tribes. And we
20 identified those tribes by the project area map I showed
21 earlier. If any piece of a potential area touched a
22 county, we looked at all of the tribes that had
23 interests in that county and sent them a letter
24 notifying them.

25 As part of that, any interested tribes, we are

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1 the different water sheds is unacceptable as well, and
2 to also -- to stop this proposed project really
3 perpetuates basically a misleading -- it's a misleading
4 narrative that fish and farms are against each other,
5 and fish and jobs are against each other. And that's
6 not the case. You need to cut that out with this type
7 of project.

8 MS. BARBIERI: Thank you for your comment.

9 Ms. Chichizole, before you begin, I just wanted
10 to call the next few people up. Michael DiMartino,
11 Katie Donahue-Duran and Chief Caleen Sisk, if you could
12 cue up, that would be great.

13 And you may proceed when you're ready.

14 MS. CHICHIZOLE: Hello, my name is Regina
15 Chichizole. I'm here today with Save California Salmon,
16 and also I work with the Pacific Coast Federation of
17 Fishermen Associations.

18 I'm here today to say that we do not support the
19 Delta tunnel project, at least Save California does not,
20 and that we oppose this project and any projects that
21 will take more water out of the Sacramento, Trinity,
22 Klamath River systems or Bay Delta.

23 I know that I wanted to reference a 2016 article
24 in the Sacramento Bee that -- and the water portfolio,
25 which both seem to tie the Sites Reservoir project and

1 the Delta tunnel projects together. I know there is
2 other proposed new reservoirs also right now in the
3 state that are just called water storage projects, but
4 in reality, they're going to take a lot more water out
5 of our rivers at a time when our salmon are dying off
6 and the Delta smelt are dying off at extremely quick
7 levels.

8 During the drought, we lost about 99 percent of
9 winter run Shinook in the Sacramento River, and we lost
10 about 95 percent of juvenile salmon in the Klamath
11 River. And I know that the map only shows the Trinity
12 River as a diversion, but for us, it's a river, and we
13 really depend on it in order to keep the Klamath River
14 salmon from dying off, because it's one of the coldest
15 water sources.

16 So looking at cumulatively, these new projects,
17 such as the Sites Reservoir, the governor's portfolio,
18 the Trump water plan, the state water plan are a
19 death -- and this tunnel proposal could be death to our
20 rivers. And I think that the governor needs to look at
21 sustainability.

22 I'm also fairly insulted that there are no north
23 state meetings on this. There was also very few north
24 state meetings on the water portfolio, and the fact that
25 the water portfolio prioritizes the tunnel in the Sites

1 Reservoir with -- and then the hearings are going
2 forward before the comment period even ends on the water
3 portfolio kind of shows that our voices really don't
4 matter.

5 The governor is moving forward in the way that
6 he wants, and he's not prioritizing the fish and he's
7 not prioritizing the north state. He's only
8 prioritizing water brokers, because truthfully, the
9 cities are saving water. It's the people who are
10 selling water that want these projects.

11 That said, regarding to the water rights, right
12 now there is so much paper water in the state that in
13 the Trinity, there is ten times more water rights than
14 exist in the river. In the Sacramento, the numbers are
15 almost similar. So it doesn't matter if there is no new
16 water rights, because there is not enough water to
17 fulfill the current rights. So if we build more dams
18 and we build more diversions, we're going to kill off
19 our salmon and we're going to ruin the water quality
20 that we rely on for the jobs and for the people of the
21 state.

22 So we're opposed to this project. Thank you for
23 having us. We came five hours to be here.

24 MS. BARBIERI: Thank you.

25 MS. CHICHIZOLE: So please have some north state

1 meetings.

2 MS. BARBIERI: Thank you.

3 MS. CHICHIZOLE: Oh, do you want to say
4 something? Malcolm came five hours and skipped school
5 today too.

6 MS. BARBIERI: Thank you, Mal come. Good job.

7 MS. CHICHIZOLE: Do you want to say something?
8 You can.

9 MALCOM: Save the salmon. Save the fish. We
10 won't stand for this.

11 MS. BARBIERI: Good job.

12 Mr. DiMartino.

13 MR. DiMARTINO: Well, the children shall lead;
14 right? And no matter what happens, they're the ones who
15 are going to be affected from whatever decisions we
16 made. So I want everyone just to put all the data and
17 science aside, and let's get into our heart and into the
18 reality as human beings in a time of great challenges
19 here on earth and how we all need to work together for
20 the future generations.

21 So it was very apropos and I thank him for
22 showing up today and representing the children. Just
23 like Greta who talks about the climate change who are
24 going to be affected.

25 Before I start my very brief statement, I want

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1 centered around improving reliability of water
2 deliveries, and it seems like we're losing this need to
3 improve the ecosystem that's collapsed. And one of the
4 original co-equal goals was to restore the ecosystem, so
5 I just want to make sure that doesn't get lost.

6 It seems that way in the press, too. They're
7 always talking about water deliveries and not ecosystem
8 restoration. So that's my comment. Please do that.

9 MS. BARBIERI: Thank you. Go ahead.

10 CHIEF SISK: Hi, I'm Chief Sisk of the Winnemanu
11 Wintu Tribe, and I have a question of course of the
12 Shasta Dam raze and how will the runoff waters affect
13 the levy systems coming down through this planned
14 conveyance. Also, the studies of the digging up the
15 Delta, how are you dealing with that?

16 MS. BUCKMAN: When you say studies of digging up
17 the Delta, I'm sorry, I'm not sure what -- I'm not
18 following.

19 CHIEF SISK: Sure. Are you no longer sinking
20 the tunnels into the Delta or are you building them up
21 and over the Delta?

22 MS. BUCKMAN: Okay. So this project does
23 propose tunneling, so it would have tunnel shafts that
24 would move equipment underneath, and that would be about
25 150 to 190 feet below ground.

1 CHIEF SISK: Right. And what is the study for
2 that damage that's going to be done to the Delta; do you
3 have that?

4 MS. BUCKMAN: Well, that's what this project is
5 looking at, so that's why we're doing an environmental
6 impact report so we can try to identify and characterize
7 any potential effects this is --

8 CHIEF SISK: I would like to know how you're
9 going to do it.

10 MS. BARBIERI: So what I would suggest is, it
11 sounds like those are potential impacts that you want to
12 make sure are part of the analysis, so please be sure to
13 include that in your comment, either your verbal comment
14 or your written comment. So you would turn that
15 question into a comment.

16 CHIEF SISK: Yeah.

17 MS. BARBIERI: You know, "Please this X, Y, Z is
18 important to me. I hope that you're looking at X, Y, Z.
19 Please include that in your environmental analysis."

20 CHIEF SISK: Yeah. Because this affects the
21 Delta smelt and also the salmon acclimation processes
22 here.

23 MS. BARBIERI: So include that in your comment.

24 CHIEF SISK: But I would like to see the
25 framework of your science that you're going to use for

1 digging that far down in the Delta and the effects of
2 that.

3 Thank you.

4 MS. BARBIERI: Thank you. All right. Next.

5 MS. MOLONEY: Hi, thank you. Emily Moloney.
6 Buena Vista Rancheria of Miwok Indians. It's my
7 understanding that the project claims that it will not
8 be increasing the capacity of water taken, but that
9 you're just moving intakes. Can you please explain
10 which intakes that you will be removing that these two
11 will be replacing? And please explain how this project
12 will not increase the amount of water diverted from the
13 Sacramento River.

14 MS. BUCKMAN: Go ahead.

15 MR. YEE: So -- sorry, my name is Marcus Yee.
16 I'm the CEQA project manager. And at this time, this
17 project is not proposing any new water rights, and the
18 operations would be restricted by current biological
19 opinions, by restrictions in place by the wildlife
20 services as well as meeting water quality control plan
21 criteria objectives. So there is no plan for any new
22 water rights.

23 MS. MOLONEY: But these are new -- two new
24 intakes, so are they replacing other intakes that are
25 removing water out of the Delta?

1 entire state. There are 39 million people in
2 California, and our population is continuing to grow.
3 This project will improve the reliability of our water
4 system, fix aging infrastructure and provide water
5 security for working families in the state.

6 Projects of this magnitude produce high-paying
7 jobs during the construction phase, including careers
8 for incoming apprentices within the construction
9 industry. There is also a domino effect of increased
10 jobs in related industries. For these reasons, we are
11 in support.

12 Thank you.

13 MS. BARBIERI: Thank you very much.

14 Chief Sisk, before you begin, I would just like
15 the call up a couple more people to get in the cue. Dan
16 Bauker and James Dunlap, if you could get yourselves
17 ready.

18 And please proceed.

19 CHIEF SISK: All right. You know, this is the
20 fifth world largest economy -- right? -- in the world.
21 We're right there with the United States, California.
22 And we have that kind of capacity in the world. One of
23 those things that happened was the great state empire
24 building. Do you remember that? The Shasta Dam
25 project, the empire of California. The growing years

1 were ahead of us. We're going to do all these great
2 things, and I guess it did produce the fifth largest
3 economy system in the world.

4 But you know what happened to my tribe? We
5 became homeless. We became jobless. We didn't benefit
6 in one way with this California water project that took
7 our home lands, 26 miles of my home lands. We have
8 never benefited one day of this empire that's been built
9 for California.

10 Now they're talking about razing Shasta Dam a
11 second time. That has to be in connection with these
12 two tunnels, because they're not talking about closing
13 down the South Gate intake which is killing the fish.
14 It's killing the salmon. They need it to be moved. If
15 this project included moving that South Gate from
16 killing the salmon, that would be something. But now
17 they're opening it up so that more water could be taken,
18 more water could be shipped south, and still there is no
19 subsidies to the tribes, and there is no subsidies to
20 the north state, there is no subsidies to the counties
21 that are giving up this kind of water and there is no
22 assistance for the problems that exist in the north
23 state because of the water exports, including the water
24 coming from the Trinity River.

25 The water is polluted. I mean, I think that the

1 governor needs to focus on the fact that every river in
2 California is polluted. What are we doing about that?
3 We're going to build a tunnel to ship polluted water to
4 people in Southern California, because they think it's
5 good. You know, that's a shame that we're ignoring the
6 fact that we have already, under the processes of
7 divvying up the water systems, to ignore the fact that
8 all of the tules are gone from the ocean, from the
9 rivers, from this whole valley, which are water
10 purifiers.

11 Nobody talks about how are we going to do that
12 again? Nobody talks about the aqueduct. The fact that
13 the water is dead when it gets to the end of that
14 tunnel, when it gets to the end of that process that has
15 to be revitalized. How good of water is that?

16 You know --

17 MS. BARBIERI: Thank you for your comments.

18 CHIEF SISK: -- the last thing I want to say is
19 that, you know, these three minute sessions is absurd
20 for the time that it's taken us, and that the north
21 state meetings need to happen and tribal water rights
22 need to be adjudicated by the State of California before
23 you move ahead with this.

24 MS. BARBIERI: Thank you for your comment.

25 Mr. Bauker.

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1 MR. CONOVER: My name is Matt Conover from
2 Reclamation District 1002, which starts at about the
3 south end of the jade green block there at the start of
4 the central corridor in gold on the left side of the
5 map, and which is about also the start point for the
6 eastern corridor in purple.

7 We're concerned about the 1100 acre forebay that
8 would be placed somewhere in that jade green area east
9 of two of the three intakes, which have been -- one of
10 which, the northernmost, would go into Hood itself,
11 Hood-Franklin Road crossing I-5, and impacts from a
12 possible new overpass that would be built over I-5. And
13 parallel roads, all roads for the muck that would be
14 taken out of the additional forebay involving 150 truck
15 loads a day of muck, where would that muck go, and where
16 would that forebay drainage for gravity flow require
17 tunneling soil samples?

18 The tunnel could be down to 200 feet, but soil
19 samples are being proposed for only 50 to 100 feet. So
20 I'm wondering what good those are going to do if you
21 don't know what's down below that.

22 The impacts are going to start right away,
23 proposed for spring 2020, which starts next month.
24 Those vertical soil borings would require our ranch,
25 which spans the width of that gold there and the

1 reclamation district starting at the top of the gold of
2 6,000 acres of three or four different ranches and
3 vineyards and orchards would have some pattern of
4 drilling. We don't know yet, but orchards, a lot harder
5 to deal with, take out of trees, then vines and a slower
6 re-growth. Those are 100-year-old trees.

7 So we need to find out where their soil samples
8 bore sites are proposed to be and start appraisals on
9 the value, so we can calculate the destruction costs and
10 get fair compensation for those drill holes for the soil
11 sampling, and get paid up front on that sort of impact.

12 Those kinds of impacts are going to be felt all
13 the way down the corridor, so I hope you're budgeting
14 for that sort of thing.

15 Thank you.

16 MS. BARBIERI: Thank you.

17 MR. CONOVER: Oh, wait, wait. One more thing,
18 is the larger water portfolio impacts, we're at the
19 mouth of the Cosumnes River where it drains into the
20 Delta. Heavy metal sediments have fallen out of
21 suspension into the flat water and need to be dealt
22 with. Nature conservancy has a track south of us wants
23 to break down our levy and flood all the way north to
24 Delta Shores at Freeport.

25 And I just ran out of time. Thank you.

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1 question about two tunnels versus one, if you're not
2 asking for more water, you're lying, because you're
3 gonna get more water in the future.

4 Thank you.

5 MS. BARBIERI: Thank you for your comment.

6 Ms. Culton.

7 MS. CULTON: Good afternoon. My name is Molly
8 Culton. I'm here on behalf of Sierra Club California
9 and our half a million members statewide. We strongly
10 advise that DWR fully assess a no-tunnel alternative.
11 The proposed project will not restore or protect water
12 reliability for California. Indeed, the proposed
13 project will worsen environmental health conditions in
14 the Delta to the detriment of the Delta ecosystem and
15 Delta communities.

16 The state continuously argues that this will not
17 increase diversions from the Delta, but we know this is
18 not the case. Due to both state and federal proposals
19 relating to operations of the respective systems,
20 diversions from an already fragile ecosystem will
21 increase and the tunnel will facilitate those
22 diversions.

23 So we strongly encourage DWR to consider the
24 following: The EIR should analyze alternatives that
25 increase Delta outflow and reduce exports as compared to

1 current conditions in the Delta. Specifically, the EIR
2 should examine a no-tunnel alternative. The EIR should
3 analyze water conservation efficiency and additional
4 demand-reduction measures that would be less
5 environmentally harmful than the tunnel and achieve the
6 same water supply reliability goals and targets that the
7 tunnel project proposes.

8 The EIR must also analyze the tunnel's
9 consistency with the Delta Reform Acts policy of reduced
10 reliance on the Delta in conjunction with the state's
11 operations proposal. The EIR must analyze the tunnel's
12 cumulative impacts with particular focus on global
13 climate change impacts, including salt water intrusion,
14 where the tunnel intakes would be, water quality,
15 including the effects of increases in salinity, toxic
16 hot spots, pesticides, mercury and other pollutant
17 discharge that won't be cleaned out due to the lack of
18 fresh water flows in the Delta.

19 Biological resources, including all species that
20 may be impacted by the state water project as well as
21 upland habitants that may be affected, impacts on tunnel
22 alignments since the proposed eastern alignment has
23 potential for significant urban impacts for Delta
24 residents and impacts incurred during construction of
25 the tunnel and the reservoirs required for water

1 storage.

2 The EIR must adequately analyze the
3 effectiveness of proposed mitigation in conservation
4 measures over the term of the tunnel project. And
5 lastly, the EIR should analyze the economic costs and
6 benefits of the single tunnel project, especially for
7 those rate payers and cities south of the Delta who will
8 see an increase in water rates due to tunnel operations.

9 Thank you.

10 MS. BARBIERI: Thanks very much.

11 Mr. Stroshane.

12 MR. STROSHANE: I'm Tim Stroshane, policy
13 analyst with Restore The Delta. I have these comments
14 on the tunnel option notice of preparation. First, the
15 statement of purpose and objectives fails to include the
16 purpose of giving and facilitating for water contractors
17 more incentives to seek and transact water transfers
18 from north of Delta willing sellers.

19 Second, construction and operational impacts of
20 the tunnel option should be fully evaluated in the DEIR
21 for all issue areas and especially for flow.

22 Third, public health impacts must include
23 potential contribution of the proposed project to spread
24 of harmful algal blooms of both construction and
25 operations.

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1 MR. YEE: They would be used operationally as a
2 dual conveyance, so you would have the flexibility. The
3 intent of the project is to have the flexibility to use
4 the South Delta facilities or their other Delta
5 facilities.

6 MS. MOLONEY: Thank you.

7 MS. BARBIERI: Okay. Last clarifying question,
8 and then we'll get into comments. And I just wanted to
9 say I'll call you by threes just to let you know that
10 you're coming up. So I'm going to start with Susan
11 Wallace, Charlene Woodcock and Heinrich Albert. So you
12 three are up first.

13 So please go ahead.

14 MR. DiMARTINO: So I'm Michael DiMartino. I'm
15 from the Alliance for Resilient Communities, and also
16 the newly just about to come up Water Protector Magazine
17 focused on the Sacramento River basin water shed. It's
18 nice to hear the words resilience and innovation,
19 because, you know, we can go by old designs, but we need
20 to look at the new issues, all the different science,
21 the climate change, the voices of our indigenous
22 communities. So I'm glad that we're re-reviewing this,
23 because as we know, things change daily.

24 So really quick, as someone who deals with
25 resilience in all the different parts of our region, why

1 is there not a more effective water management program
2 in place that takes in all the various factors from the
3 dams to climate change that will be implemented in your
4 final plan? It seems like you're just focusing on one
5 element and there's some huge gaps and chasms. So if
6 you could answer that, I would appreciate it.

7 MS. BUCKMAN: So the state's water resilience
8 portfolio, which was released as a draft on January 3rd,
9 is the state's attempt to look at all of the different
10 elements that contribute to resilience. And so I know
11 it's kind of frustrating to have comment periods on one
12 thing or another, but the comments on that I think were
13 due or were already on the 8th or the 7th. Thank you.
14 The 7th. So please submit any specific comments on that
15 to the water resilience portfolio.

16 We are a part of that, but we are one action
17 under the portfolio here looking at Delta conveyance.

18 MR. DiMARTINO: And 30 more seconds. What is
19 the role and gravity of the development, agriculture,
20 fracking and lobbying in your process?

21 MS. BUCKMAN: I'm sorry. I'm trying to frame
22 all of that. So I think that those are things that are
23 likely comments that I would ask you to submit how you
24 think they should be considered. We really are looking
25 for input. We're at the very beginning stages. So if

1 there are things that you think we should be
2 considering, we would really appreciate it.

3 MR. DiMARTINO: And I appreciate you, because I
4 think in this current political climate, the deciders,
5 decision-makers need to offer a very transparent plan to
6 the people and the communities that will be affected.
7 So thank you for holding this meeting.

8 MS. BARBIERI: Thank you. We're going to go
9 ahead and move into comments now. So as I call you,
10 just so that we can be super efficient, I'll just have
11 you come up and cue up, and then we'll try to rotate
12 through people so that we can be as efficient as
13 possible.

14 So again, Susan Wallace, Charlene Woodcock and
15 Heinrich Albert. So Susan, you're up first.

16 Oh, I should mention that we do have a timer
17 here. I don't know if you can see it from there.
18 Hopefully you can. It will turn yellow at 2 minutes and
19 30 seconds, and it will turn red when we get to 3, and
20 it will make a little beep, beep. So just try to stick
21 to that as much as you can.

22 And sorry, I'm just going to interrupt for just
23 a minute. One more thing.

24 MS. WALLACE: I haven't spoke yet.

25 MS. BARBIERI: So the verbal comments are -- you

1 meetings.

2 MS. BARBIERI: Thank you.

3 MS. CHICHIZOLE: Oh, do you want to say
4 something? Malcolm came five hours and skipped school
5 today too.

6 MS. BARBIERI: Thank you, Mal come. Good job.

7 MS. CHICHIZOLE: Do you want to say something?
8 You can.

9 MALCOM: Save the salmon. Save the fish. We
10 won't stand for this.

11 MS. BARBIERI: Good job.

12 Mr. DiMartino.

13 MR. DiMARTINO: Well, the children shall lead;
14 right? And no matter what happens, they're the ones who
15 are going to be affected from whatever decisions we
16 made. So I want everyone just to put all the data and
17 science aside, and let's get into our heart and into the
18 reality as human beings in a time of great challenges
19 here on earth and how we all need to work together for
20 the future generations.

21 So it was very apropos and I thank him for
22 showing up today and representing the children. Just
23 like Greta who talks about the climate change who are
24 going to be affected.

25 Before I start my very brief statement, I want

1 to thank all of the indigenous and native people who are
2 here, who are the original water protectors and land
3 stewards, because without their successful efforts, we
4 wouldn't even be having this colonialized discussion
5 this afternoon. So I want to thank all of you who are
6 here today and the work that you've done.

7 So really quick, my name is Michael DiMartino.
8 I'm an event producer. I'm an investigative journalist,
9 and more importantly, I'm just an awakened citizen whose
10 here because I'm concerned with what I see happening.
11 And it's not just me. There is millions of people who
12 are waking up to what's really happening behind closed
13 doors and the decision-makers and the decisions that are
14 being made.

15 I want people to understand that I'm opposed to
16 no tunnel, but I want us to look at the whole region as
17 a water shed. It's not just the Delta tunnels. It's
18 for everything that happens from Southern Oregon,
19 Western California, Sacramento, from Mt. Shasta to
20 glacial waters, all the way to Sacramento, to the Delta
21 and also what happens to the San Francisco Bay and the
22 wetlands there.

23 So I just want to ask, How many people here who
24 are concerned with water are drinking out of a Crystal
25 Geyser or Nestle plastic bottle today? Raise your hand.

1 How many of you have plastic bottles? Fess up.

2 If you're here to talk about water, let's talk
3 about the environmental toxins that are contributing to
4 the water. So very quick, Let's talk about bad design.
5 How many of you have heard about the Paradise fires?
6 Bad design. Because we didn't look at indigenous land
7 management practices. Okay? Let's look at what's
8 happening with the e-Coli and algae blooms in the
9 American River and the Yuba River, because the rivers
10 are being depleted because of not just dams, but because
11 of water misuse and also because of climate change.

12 Going down the line, let's look at
13 overdevelopment. Let's have common sense. Let's
14 consult and talk to people like the Bechtels and other
15 organizations that are trying to overdevelop Central
16 Valley. And it's a desert. It's not meant to be
17 developed. It's meant to bring back the wetlands and
18 the way that this environment is supposed to be
19 maintained.

20 Let's look at agriculture, permaculture
21 practices. Let's talk with the residents. Let's look
22 at what's happening with the almond orchards. Let's
23 consider dry farming. Let's consider all the things you
24 can do to regenerate the groundwater which is
25 contributing to the drought in California. Let's

1 exercise common sense.

2 So really quick, let's look at what's happening
3 with fracking with Governor Brown and Jerry Newsom --
4 Jerry Brown and Governor Newsom, they both approved
5 fracking. Let's look at what's happening with
6 environmental toxins from Monsanto and Glyphosate and
7 the lobby that they have.

8 All I'm saying -- I have a lot more to say.
9 Let's look at a future versus dollars and some
10 privatizations pocket and how it's going to affect all
11 of us. And I don't care if you're a developer or you're
12 a child, your future and your children will be affected.

13 MS. BARBIERI: Thank you.

14 MR. DiMARTINO: I want invite everyone to World
15 Water Day in Nevada City where we're rolling out a huge
16 event with thousands of millennials that we're
17 activating around our Water Protector magazine event.

18 MS. BARBIERI: Thank you, Mr. DiMartino.

19 MR. DiMARTINO: Thank you so much.

20 MS. BARBIERI: And Ms. Donahue-Duran.

21 MS. DURAN: Good afternoon. Katie Donahue-Duran
22 with the California State Council of Laborers. We are
23 in strong support of Governor Newsom's Delta conveyance
24 project. The governor and this administration
25 recognized the need to provide water sources for the

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DELTA CONVEYANCE PROJECT

CEQA PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING

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Sacramento, California 95814

DATE: Monday, February 3, 2020

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21 MS. DURAN: Good afternoon. Katie Donahue-Duran
22 with the California State Council of Laborers. We are
23 in strong support of Governor Newsom's Delta conveyance
24 project. The governor and this administration
25 recognized the need to provide water sources for the

1 entire state. There are 39 million people in
2 California, and our population is continuing to grow.
3 This project will improve the reliability of our water
4 system, fix aging infrastructure and provide water
5 security for working families in the state.

6 Projects of this magnitude produce high-paying
7 jobs during the construction phase, including careers
8 for incoming apprentices within the construction
9 industry. There is also a domino effect of increased
10 jobs in related industries. For these reasons, we are
11 in support.

12 Thank you.

13 MS. BARBIERI: Thank you very much.

14 Chief Sisk, before you begin, I would just like
15 the call up a couple more people to get in the cue. Dan
16 Bauker and James Dunlap, if you could get yourselves
17 ready.

18 And please proceed.

19 CHIEF SISK: All right. You know, this is the
20 fifth world largest economy -- right? -- in the world.
21 We're right there with the United States, California.
22 And we have that kind of capacity in the world. One of
23 those things that happened was the great state empire
24 building. Do you remember that? The Shasta Dam
25 project, the empire of California. The growing years

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1 is no good Delta tunnel. The entire project based on
2 it's very premise of its existence is absolutely wrong.

3 MS. BARBIERI: Thank you.

4 Mr. Dunlap, before you begin, I just want to
5 call up Bob Saunders and Roberto Valdez. If you could
6 cue up.

7 And please proceed when you're ready.

8 MR. DUNLAP: James Dunlap, Yurok tribal member.
9 First, the whole issue of your meetings, you know, I
10 want to call bullshit that there is nothing north of the
11 state, because you've seemingly purposely scheduled
12 these meetings for the beneficiaries of the south state
13 that will get the water and nothing for those adversely
14 affected in the north state.

15 Now, that's either a gross oversight or a
16 willful intention, and that needs to be remedied. The
17 tunnel is wrong on just about every level you can think
18 of except those that will directly make money. Money
19 you cannot eat. Money will not preserve the ecosystems
20 of that Delta. They will not preserve our rivers.
21 Money will not preserve our fish.

22 These things, you know, are what you're going to
23 have to live with in making the decision to move forward
24 with a Delta project. Okay? Those are going to be
25 listed on your scriptures on your tombstones, you know.

1 And to quote Cool Hand Luke, "Just because a man calls
2 it his job, don't make it right." Okay?

3 Whether or not you guys are strong enough to
4 stand up to those that told you to hold this meeting and
5 to put this conveyance forward, will be on you, you
6 know, of whether or not the issues, the adverse affects
7 are going to outweigh the money that's going to
8 influence the decision, because that's basically what
9 it's coming down to.

10 The people in the south have no care about what
11 goes on in the north. It's not in their yard. It's not
12 going to affect them adversely.

13 As -- you know, like I say, it's just wrong on
14 so many different options. I mean, if it's -- you're
15 looking toward the future. You know, the Shasta Dam
16 that was brought up was great when there was 24 million
17 people in the state. It's obsolete now. The Trinity
18 River coming down south is a travesty, you know. I
19 don't hear -- I hear a quick, cheap, easy fix, trying to
20 get water to the south state, you know, because there is
21 a democratic vote that will push it through because of
22 the population.

23 Well, what California was supposed to be was a
24 republic, where the individual rights cannot be
25 overshadowed by the mass majority. And that's not

1 being -- happening. Again, you know, start looking into
2 some desalination plants.

3 MS. BARBIERI: Thank you for your comment.

4 Mr. Saunders.

5 MR. SAUNDERS: Yes. Thank you for having these
6 meetings. Although I have to say, I call them listening
7 sessions, because I know that I feel the public interest
8 has really not been taken seriously, and there have been
9 many, many meetings that have taken place behind closed
10 doors.

11 I was here several years ago speaking out
12 against the Delta tunnels. In fact I wrote my speech in
13 the audience when I heard people pour their hearts out,
14 people whose land are going to be affected fourth, fifth
15 generation, business owners, fishermen, ranchers, people
16 like that, environmental advocates and activists, people
17 of groups that generally do not get together on a single
18 issue like that.

19 One of the things is I also want to thank the
20 person who spoke from the Sierra Club for highlighting
21 the numerous impacts that this boondoggle plan will
22 affect, something that's often forgotten, that later
23 years, when there are major issues, that when the plan
24 goes awry, the officials that put the plan together
25 often call it unintended consequences. Sadly, we're the

1 comments that you're interested in making on that and I
2 would really encourage you to make those during the
3 comment period. But generally, the idea is that we
4 would be able to capture a higher amount of flow during
5 high-flow events, which would allow, as supplies change
6 into the future, would allow some more flexibility in
7 operations to help maintain environmental conditions.

8 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: What my question was, Was how,
9 since we're still going through that same set of pumps,
10 how does the fact of having these additional intakes,
11 how does that allow the capture of more flood water?

12 MS. BUCKMAN: We would still have limitations in
13 the South Delta at those facilities, but the details of
14 how much would be pumped, we haven't gotten there yet.
15 We're still at the very starting phase, and so that's
16 something we would have more information on as we move
17 forward.

18 MS. BARBIERI: Next, please.

19 MR. DURBIN: Hi, my name is Jeff Durbin. I am a
20 concerned boater from Rancho Cordova. I wanted to know
21 if we're including with the new Folsom Dam being razed,
22 more capacity, does that being fit into the big picture
23 on this?

24 MS. BUCKMAN: So, we will -- we haven't yet
25 fully flushed out all of our modeling assumptions for

1 modeling. Again, this is the beginning phases, and we
2 would encourage you to submit specific comments on the
3 document. But we are planning to look at existing
4 facilities and their existing capabilities.

5 MR. DURBIN: With them breaking ground, we are
6 anticipating more storage there. So I just want to make
7 sure that's part of the whole big picture we're looking
8 at already.

9 MS. BUCKMAN: If you could submit that in a
10 comment, that would be very helpful. Thank you.

11 MS. BARBIERI: Next, please.

12 MS. CHICHIZOLE: Hi, I wanted to know if -- my
13 name is Regina Chichizole. I wanted to know if you are
14 planning to have any meetings north of here. Right now,
15 there is no meetings scheduled in the north part of the
16 state, and I know a lot of people from Redding and
17 Trinity River areas are very concerned, and I had heard
18 that there is rumors there will be north state hearings.

19 MS. BUCKMAN: So at this point, we don't have
20 anything scheduled to the north. If anyone has
21 something compelling that they would like to suggest,
22 they can e-mail that in as a comment. But generally, we
23 plan to prepare these seven meetings. We would also
24 really appreciate opportunities to go speak at other
25 meetings in other ways to provide information to people,

1 systems obviously. Obviously, terrible impacts on the
2 tribal communities throughout the state and terrible
3 impacts on the Delta communities. So especially, you
4 know -- and it's not just about construction. And I do
5 see that there is a new corridor being looked at to the
6 east, which potentially could reduce construction
7 impacts on some boating, I think it would create other
8 impacts in those other areas.

9 There is just no good place to put this
10 monstrosity, and it's not needed for the state. So we
11 need to keep looking for alternatives, and I think
12 everyone here is willing to help with that, but it's not
13 right to come back to the same old project after telling
14 us that you're getting a new start.

15 MS. BARBIERI: Thank you.

16 Mr. Durbin, before you begin, I want to call the
17 next few folks. Mariah Looney, Barbara
18 Barrigan-Parrilla and Ted Jenkins, if you cue up.

19 And please proceed.

20 MR. DURBIN: Thank you. Actually, I agree with
21 so much that everybody has spoken about already with the
22 no meetings to the north, and I'm really curious why
23 that didn't happen. And I'm going to go ahead and put
24 in a more focused comment, but I'm, again, worried about
25 Folsom Dam capacity increasing, maybe Shasta too being

1 considered in this whole process.

2 Carrie mentioned that we will use good
3 information. I keep hearing best available science,
4 which, to me, is best available science. It's the
5 scientific method is what we use. It can include the
6 best available science, but that looks at everything,
7 not just what we want to look at.

8 Having not considered alternatives yet, Carrie
9 mentioned, I agree, the no-tunnel version should be
10 looked at a little deeper too. I'm also concerned that
11 I think we're not going to be doing as much fracking
12 anymore. We're finally catching onto that, but I think
13 a lot of our water was sent to the south for fracking.
14 I saw some things showing that. Like I said, I think
15 the attorney general is putting more of a halt to that.

16 I'm also concerned you mentioned transparency.
17 I would like to see -- make sure there is plenty of
18 transparency and room for an independent whistle blower
19 hotline, something like that.

20 August, I ran aground in my boat in the
21 Sacramento River by the deep water channel, the locks.
22 West Sacramento did a flood control project where they
23 cut open the levies in, like, four places and the --
24 they're supposed to have -- the coast guard was supposed
25 to put buoys in there and whatnot. They did not. There

1 is no marking, no nothing on it. I'm like, "What's that
2 new island there?" I've lived there my whole life.
3 We've been into boating my whole life, and the harbor
4 master at the marina there says, "Oh, you're preaching
5 to the choir." I'm like, "Well, you're willing to put
6 up with it, though." I mean he's like, "Everybody keeps
7 running aground there."

8 Well, that's bogus. I've got a video where I'm
9 cussing like a sailor when I hit. No damage to the
10 boat, thank God. But I keep going back out there. The
11 water level is down, and every week I don't see any
12 buoys there. There is no need for them when the water
13 is that low, but I think projects that like that also
14 help to expand capacity for flow. That was their idea.
15 They even bragged about it in the commercial.

16 And another thing, my boat has been overheating
17 a lot, so I float a lot, and seeing these trucks run up
18 and down -- I was approximately at Clarksburg, running
19 up and down the levy, was pounding so hard, I don't know
20 how fast they're going, as fast as they can go, maybe
21 empty, but I mean, it's shaking in the river, too. I'm
22 feeling it in the boat, and I'm thinking, "Boy, we're
23 talking about levy protection and making sure that part
24 of this is for avoiding breaching of Delta levies." I
25 mean, I'm -- I'd even -- if we do get to this, if we put

1 a slower speed limit even on these levies to keep it
2 from being such trouble.

3 Thank you.

4 MS. BARBIERI: Thank you very much.

5 Ms. Looney.

6 MS. LOONEY: Hello. My name is Mariah Looney.
7 I'm with Restore The Delta. I'm now a resident of Lodi,
8 but I was born and raised in Stockton, which has a large
9 environmental justice population, with the majority of
10 that population living in South Stockton.

11 With the new proposed eastern alignment, there
12 is a significant number of increased urban impacts for
13 all residents, but even bigger impacts for residents
14 living near the Port of Stockton. By taking more and
15 more Sacramento River water, the Delta will be left with
16 salty, polluted water loaded with selenium, borons and
17 bromides.

18 What is the plan for mitigating harmful algal
19 blooms which cause water quality and air quality
20 problems during construction which will increase in
21 nearby rivers and sloughs as a result of changing flows
22 during construction?

23 What will be the impacts from construction?
24 There will be heavy truck traffic to all major
25 construction sites competing on I-5 and Highway 4 and

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1 saying to you is that would even reduce -- that would
2 then eliminate even any claimed or arguable need for the
3 tunnel project, which would cost billions of dollars.

4 And we know the reason DWR has never wanted to
5 and has consistently refused to put this alternative
6 before the public, because the people in the public are
7 saying, "Well, wait a minute. We can save billions of
8 dollars, not build this massive public works project,
9 and we get to save and start to restore the Delta."

10 That's a no-brainer.

11 So this time around, in your deed, your draft
12 EIR, even though you don't want to do it, put in an
13 alternative that would reduce exports to increase fresh
14 water flows, and that would mean no tunnel.

15 Thank you.

16 MS. BARBIERI: Thank you.

17 And Mr. Griffith.

18 MR. GRIFFITH: Good afternoon. My name is Kyle
19 Griffith, here representing Californians For Water
20 Security. We are a statewide coalition of more than 80
21 organizations and 10,000 citizens in support of fixing
22 California's aging water distribution infrastructure.

23 We know that climate change is going to impact
24 the way that California receives its water. We can no
25 longer rely on the Delta snow pack or the Sierra snow

1 pack to release water slowly. We're anticipating that
2 water is going to be delivered to the state in more
3 precipitation and rain, and our current water system is
4 currently unable to accommodate moving these waters or
5 this water where it's needed when it's in abundance.

6 We thank the DWR for holding these scoping
7 meetings to look at proposed alternatives, and we're in
8 support of the 6,000 cubic feet per second project
9 outlined in the NOP. We are eager to provide more
10 comments and work with the state in moving this project
11 forward.

12 Thank you.

13 MS. BARBIERI: Thank you. Okay. I don't have
14 anymore cards in front of me. Did I miss anyone who
15 maybe wanted to turn in a card who didn't?

16 Okay. Please proceed. You can pull that down.
17 Yeah.

18 MS. LATTER: Hi, my name is Tess. I am helping
19 organize a water protector tour this year, and I'm quite
20 shocked, to be honest, that something like this is even
21 being considered. I think the people that are part of
22 this Delta organization, I don't understand how you
23 could consciously look at yourselves in the mirror and
24 live with a clear conscious of what you're doing.
25 You're taking water away from tribes, from innocent

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1 MS. BARBIERI: But don't forget, you have
2 written comments, too, so please include all of that.

3 Yeah. Please proceed.

4 MR. BLOOMSTINE: Hi. Thank you so much. Todd
5 Bloomstine representing the Southern California
6 Contractors Association. We're an association of about
7 300 members, engineering contractors that work across
8 the state, but based primarily in Southern California.

9 I want to state that we support the
10 administration's Delta conveyance project, increasing
11 the reliability is very important to SCCA as well as
12 balancing the strong protections for the Delta's
13 ecosystem.

14 One of the issues I think really should be
15 clarified through this process is emphasizing that the
16 tunnels would be used during high flows only. Whatever
17 you can do to emphasize that it would be used for high
18 flows I think is important.

19 Thank you very much for your time. Appreciate
20 your efforts.

21 MS. BARBIERI: Thank you.

22 Mr. Kinney.

23 MR. KINNEY: (Unintelligible statement.)

24 Hello, my name is Isaac Kinney. I'm from the
25 villages of Weitchpec, Hectoo (phonetic spelling) and

1 Ershager (phonetic spelling). And I currently live in
2 Weitchpec at the confluence of the Klamath and Trinity
3 Rivers.

4 I do want to start by saying I do oppose this
5 infrastructure project. Couple misleading outreach
6 materials I see is the map that you had basically looks
7 like the Trinity River runs into the Sacramento. I feel
8 that's very misleading for the public. That is not the
9 case, and to include the Trinity and Klamath River in
10 the scope of work of this project.

11 Also to include with your outreach, like it says
12 in the water portfolio, this project and the Sites
13 Reservoir project are tied at the hip. That is real
14 confusing with how you all kind of single out this
15 project. So making sure that they do go hand in hand,
16 that needs to be a part of the EIR and all of the
17 outreach for this, not just the documents, but the
18 outreach to the public.

19 The other -- let's see. I have some -- okay.
20 So again, any new diversions or points of diversions
21 will mean that there will be less water in certain parts
22 of the Trinity and Sacramento. And again, we know less
23 water is more, higher water temperature, and with any of
24 the fish, our brothers and sisters in the water, high
25 water temperature, they can't breathe. They talk about

1 a fish kill before. So I want to make sure that that's
2 included.

3 That again, this project is obsolete, unstable
4 infrastructure. We know how tunnels work. We know how
5 these big type of reservoirs work. These, quote,
6 unquote water banks, they do not work. And so to keep
7 investing the public's money into this type of
8 infrastructure is also very problematic, especially if
9 the governor is saying he's looking out for the people
10 of California.

11 Also want to include that, again, you can't just
12 include federally recognized tribes in this discussion.
13 You need to include locally and state, regional
14 recognized tribes as well, and to make sure that the
15 cultural resources management plans include not just,
16 again, consultation, but decision-making from the
17 tribes. So including, because of how California was
18 taken for gold in 1849 by executive order, there is
19 still a lot of aboriginal title tribes hold onto. So
20 making sure that tribes are decision-makers, not just
21 stakeholders.

22 Again, not having a meeting north of Sacramento
23 infringes on indigenous peoples prior and informed
24 consent, which is, again, already established. The
25 strain that this project will bring to the area and all

1 the different water sheds is unacceptable as well, and
2 to also -- to stop this proposed project really
3 perpetuates basically a misleading -- it's a misleading
4 narrative that fish and farms are against each other,
5 and fish and jobs are against each other. And that's
6 not the case. You need to cut that out with this type
7 of project.

8 MS. BARBIERI: Thank you for your comment.

9 Ms. Chichizole, before you begin, I just wanted
10 to call the next few people up. Michael DiMartino,
11 Katie Donahue-Duran and Chief Caleen Sisk, if you could
12 cue up, that would be great.

13 And you may proceed when you're ready.

14 MS. CHICHIZOLE: Hello, my name is Regina
15 Chichizole. I'm here today with Save California Salmon,
16 and also I work with the Pacific Coast Federation of
17 Fishermen Associations.

18 I'm here today to say that we do not support the
19 Delta tunnel project, at least Save California does not,
20 and that we oppose this project and any projects that
21 will take more water out of the Sacramento, Trinity,
22 Klamath River systems or Bay Delta.

23 I know that I wanted to reference a 2016 article
24 in the Sacramento Bee that -- and the water portfolio,
25 which both seem to tie the Sites Reservoir project and

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1 going to coordinate with in the best way possible for
2 them. So we are going through a pretty detailed process
3 to try to feedback and input from the tribes.

4 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Just to clarify, those are
5 federally recognized tribes or are those --

6 MS. BUCKMAN: Federally recognized tribes.

7 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: How about the local and
8 regional recognized tribes?

9 MS. BUCKMAN: That is a question I might need to
10 follow-up with you on. I think that some of them are on
11 the list, but I'm not sure. We will follow up.

12 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Yes. Especially with the
13 Declaration of Rights of Indigenous Peoples, have to
14 make sure we're on -- in alignment here.

15 MS. BUCKMAN: We'll follow up. Thank you.

16 MS. BARBIERI: So just a quick time check. I
17 would like to try to start comments in about five
18 minutes or so. So we'll go through our next three
19 folks.

20 MR. KNUDSON: I'll try to be quick.

21 MS. BARBIERI: Yeah. No problem.

22 MR. KNUDSON: My name is Arthur Knudson. I'm a
23 retired fish biologist. I live here in Sacramento and
24 I've very familiar with the Delta. But I was looking at
25 your goals and objectives, and it seems like they're

1 centered around improving reliability of water
2 deliveries, and it seems like we're losing this need to
3 improve the ecosystem that's collapsed. And one of the
4 original co-equal goals was to restore the ecosystem, so
5 I just want to make sure that doesn't get lost.

6 It seems that way in the press, too. They're
7 always talking about water deliveries and not ecosystem
8 restoration. So that's my comment. Please do that.

9 MS. BARBIERI: Thank you. Go ahead.

10 CHIEF SISK: Hi, I'm Chief Sisk of the Winnemanu
11 Wintu Tribe, and I have a question of course of the
12 Shasta Dam raze and how will the runoff waters affect
13 the levy systems coming down through this planned
14 conveyance. Also, the studies of the digging up the
15 Delta, how are you dealing with that?

16 MS. BUCKMAN: When you say studies of digging up
17 the Delta, I'm sorry, I'm not sure what -- I'm not
18 following.

19 CHIEF SISK: Sure. Are you no longer sinking
20 the tunnels into the Delta or are you building them up
21 and over the Delta?

22 MS. BUCKMAN: Okay. So this project does
23 propose tunneling, so it would have tunnel shafts that
24 would move equipment underneath, and that would be about
25 150 to 190 feet below ground.

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DELTA CONVEYANCE PROJECT

CEQA PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING

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1 pack to release water slowly. We're anticipating that
2 water is going to be delivered to the state in more
3 precipitation and rain, and our current water system is
4 currently unable to accommodate moving these waters or
5 this water where it's needed when it's in abundance.

6 We thank the DWR for holding these scoping
7 meetings to look at proposed alternatives, and we're in
8 support of the 6,000 cubic feet per second project
9 outlined in the NOP. We are eager to provide more
10 comments and work with the state in moving this project
11 forward.

12 Thank you.

13 MS. BARBIERI: Thank you. Okay. I don't have
14 anymore cards in front of me. Did I miss anyone who
15 maybe wanted to turn in a card who didn't?

16 Okay. Please proceed. You can pull that down.
17 Yeah.

18 MS. LATTE: Hi, my name is Tess. I am helping
19 organize a water protector tour this year, and I'm quite
20 shocked, to be honest, that something like this is even
21 being considered. I think the people that are part of
22 this Delta organization, I don't understand how you
23 could consciously look at yourselves in the mirror and
24 live with a clear conscious of what you're doing.
25 You're taking water away from tribes, from innocent

1 children, from families, from ecosystems. Considering
2 the climate change that is going on, it is massively
3 irresponsible just to put more money in corporations
4 that are already so rich.

5 For me, it is just beyond anything that I can
6 comprehend, and I think if you want to have any faith in
7 a future that could be sustainable for our kids, for --
8 you know, all these people that have corporations, they
9 have kids, too, and they're going to be affected by the
10 water.

11 Water is our -- it's our livelihood. It's our
12 life, and taking it away just to make more corporations
13 richer, how does that -- how do you justify that? It's
14 not fair. It is not on, and these tribes are suffering
15 and they've suffered enough. And I think that it has to
16 come to a stop. And I just -- I can't see how any of
17 you can justify doing something like this.

18 Thank you.

19 MS. BARBIERI: Thank you. I just wanted to
20 remind you about the deadline for making comments is
21 March 20th. In the handouts, you'll see that there is a
22 place for written or through the mail to submit that, if
23 you want to just go through the post office. There is
24 also an e-mail if you wanted to use that to submit your
25 comments, and that's all we have.

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1 a slower speed limit even on these levies to keep it
2 from being such trouble.

3 Thank you.

4 MS. BARBIERI: Thank you very much.

5 Ms. Looney.

6 MS. LOONEY: Hello. My name is Mariah Looney.
7 I'm with Restore The Delta. I'm now a resident of Lodi,
8 but I was born and raised in Stockton, which has a large
9 environmental justice population, with the majority of
10 that population living in South Stockton.

11 With the new proposed eastern alignment, there
12 is a significant number of increased urban impacts for
13 all residents, but even bigger impacts for residents
14 living near the Port of Stockton. By taking more and
15 more Sacramento River water, the Delta will be left with
16 salty, polluted water loaded with selenium, borons and
17 bromides.

18 What is the plan for mitigating harmful algal
19 blooms which cause water quality and air quality
20 problems during construction which will increase in
21 nearby rivers and sloughs as a result of changing flows
22 during construction?

23 What will be the impacts from construction?
24 There will be heavy truck traffic to all major
25 construction sites competing on I-5 and Highway 4 and

1 major arteries. Right now, 30,000 people commute from
2 Stockton to Sacramento, and 40,000 to the Bay area.
3 Where are the regional traffic studies? This will hurt
4 and not help our local economies, and the few hundred
5 jobs from tunnel construction will not offset this
6 economic hit.

7 I also want to make sure that the air pollution
8 impacts from construction on rural communities and urban
9 Southwest Stockton communities near the port are taken
10 into consideration. Southwest Stockton is a newly
11 designated AB-617 area with many known air pollution
12 problems. This project will not only increase air
13 pollution impacts to an already environmentally and
14 economically stressed community, but it will -- we just
15 want to make sure that there is more mitigation that
16 happens.

17 Local water projects from conservation and
18 efficiency programs will make 15 to 18 jobs for every
19 one million dollars spent; however, the proposed tunnel
20 project will only make 4 to 8 jobs for every one million
21 dollars spent, and these jobs will not offset the jobs
22 lost in local agriculture, industry and commuter jobs.

23 Thank you very much.

24 MS. BARBIERI: Thank you.

25 I'm just going to call up the next three

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1 balance protecting water security with enough capacity
2 to pencil out financially would simply not make sense.
3 This whole proposal is urgently needed and the time to
4 act is now.

5 Thank you.

6 MS. BARBIERI: Thank you.

7 Ms. Meserve.

8 MS. MESERVE: Good afternoon. Thank you. My
9 name is Osha Meserve from Local Agencies of the North
10 Delta. Appreciate all the people from all over the
11 State here today, and I know some of you came a long
12 ways. I was lucky to only come a couple blocks.

13 I've been working in the fight against the
14 tunnel project from 2008 to 2019 when the two-tunnel
15 project went away. We waited a year to see what else
16 could come about that might better meet the co-equal
17 goals in the Delta Reform Act of restoring the ecosystem
18 and helping with water supplies, and now we're basically
19 seeing the very same project on the same stretch of the
20 river with the same basic technology. And so it's very
21 disappointing to see where this is headed and that we're
22 basically on the same track as the predecessor to our
23 current governor.

24 There are alternatives to the tunnels that have
25 not been explored, and we would like to see those

1 explored at the very least in the NOP or it should be
2 done really now rather before we get into the EIR.

3 We were told at the construction JPA meeting
4 that this is the only place in the Delta where intakes
5 could be located according to the fish facilities
6 technical team. That's incorrect. The fish technical
7 team, ten or more years ago, was asked to look at this
8 stretch and gave advice about what studies would need to
9 be done. They did not endorse this area for the only
10 place for intakes. We think if you do need new intakes,
11 we should be looking at the West Delta where we could be
12 operable only in high flows would be an option. We also
13 think the no-tunnel alternative needs to be developed.
14 That would, of course, include strengthening the levies
15 for through Delta water supplies. In addition, the
16 intakes in the South Delta are not highly subject to sea
17 level rise and the levies can be raised to accommodate
18 that.

19 Ultimately, as we recommended for the governor's
20 portfolio group, for the resiliency plan, in addition,
21 brackish water treatment could be done in the South
22 Delta, which could be a very feasible way to keep that
23 water quality fresh, even if the salinity goes up.

24 So we don't think we need tunnels for secure
25 water supply. We don't need it for the ecological

1 systems obviously. Obviously, terrible impacts on the
2 tribal communities throughout the state and terrible
3 impacts on the Delta communities. So especially, you
4 know -- and it's not just about construction. And I do
5 see that there is a new corridor being looked at to the
6 east, which potentially could reduce construction
7 impacts on some boating, I think it would create other
8 impacts in those other areas.

9 There is just no good place to put this
10 monstrosity, and it's not needed for the state. So we
11 need to keep looking for alternatives, and I think
12 everyone here is willing to help with that, but it's not
13 right to come back to the same old project after telling
14 us that you're getting a new start.

15 MS. BARBIERI: Thank you.

16 Mr. Durbin, before you begin, I want to call the
17 next few folks. Mariah Looney, Barbara
18 Barrigan-Parrilla and Ted Jenkins, if you cue up.

19 And please proceed.

20 MR. DURBIN: Thank you. Actually, I agree with
21 so much that everybody has spoken about already with the
22 no meetings to the north, and I'm really curious why
23 that didn't happen. And I'm going to go ahead and put
24 in a more focused comment, but I'm, again, worried about
25 Folsom Dam capacity increasing, maybe Shasta too being

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1 digging that far down in the Delta and the effects of
2 that.

3 Thank you.

4 MS. BARBIERI: Thank you. All right. Next.

5 MS. MOLONEY: Hi, thank you. Emily Moloney.
6 Buena Vista Rancheria of Miwok Indians. It's my
7 understanding that the project claims that it will not
8 be increasing the capacity of water taken, but that
9 you're just moving intakes. Can you please explain
10 which intakes that you will be removing that these two
11 will be replacing? And please explain how this project
12 will not increase the amount of water diverted from the
13 Sacramento River.

14 MS. BUCKMAN: Go ahead.

15 MR. YEE: So -- sorry, my name is Marcus Yee.
16 I'm the CEQA project manager. And at this time, this
17 project is not proposing any new water rights, and the
18 operations would be restricted by current biological
19 opinions, by restrictions in place by the wildlife
20 services as well as meeting water quality control plan
21 criteria objectives. So there is no plan for any new
22 water rights.

23 MS. MOLONEY: But these are new -- two new
24 intakes, so are they replacing other intakes that are
25 removing water out of the Delta?

1 MR. YEE: They would be used operationally as a
2 dual conveyance, so you would have the flexibility. The
3 intent of the project is to have the flexibility to use
4 the South Delta facilities or their other Delta
5 facilities.

6 MS. MOLONEY: Thank you.

7 MS. BARBIERI: Okay. Last clarifying question,
8 and then we'll get into comments. And I just wanted to
9 say I'll call you by threes just to let you know that
10 you're coming up. So I'm going to start with Susan
11 Wallace, Charlene Woodcock and Heinrich Albert. So you
12 three are up first.

13 So please go ahead.

14 MR. DiMARTINO: So I'm Michael DiMartino. I'm
15 from the Alliance for Resilient Communities, and also
16 the newly just about to come up Water Protector Magazine
17 focused on the Sacramento River basin water shed. It's
18 nice to hear the words resilience and innovation,
19 because, you know, we can go by old designs, but we need
20 to look at the new issues, all the different science,
21 the climate change, the voices of our indigenous
22 communities. So I'm glad that we're re-reviewing this,
23 because as we know, things change daily.

24 So really quick, as someone who deals with
25 resilience in all the different parts of our region, why

1 amount that state water project furnishes for So Cal,
2 rather than return water to the Delta, they want --
3 they're planning on instituting more penalties and rate
4 increases to maintain status quo.

5 Thank you.

6 MS. BARBIERI: Thank you.

7 Ms. Moloney.

8 MS. MOLONEY: Hi. Thank you. My name is Emily
9 Moloney, and I'm here representing the Buena Vista
10 Rancheria of Miwok Indians, and we just want to thank
11 you for letting us speak to you.

12 The Buena Vista Rancheria of Miwok Indians has
13 several concerns we wish DWR will seriously consider,
14 and we hope that you consider a no-tunnel alternative.
15 In the event that there is a no-tunnel alternative
16 considered, we hope that you consider these things.

17 First, cultural resources. We request that the
18 DWR utilize tribal knowledge to inform the project
19 footprint as to eliminate disturbances to cultural
20 sites. Having cultural monitors on the ground helping
21 inform where to not disturb is very important. Having
22 monitors on the ground to make sure that during
23 ground-disturbing activities, no cultural resources are
24 impacted. We request that DWR consider alternatives to
25 reduce or eliminate impacts to tribal resources.

1 Secondly, we're concerned about water quality
2 and quantity. The new intakes are going to be installed
3 and pumping potentially 6,000 cubic feet per second.
4 The Sacramento River discharges, it varies throughout
5 the year, and during low flows in the late summer and
6 fall can reach as low as 2,000 cubic feet per second.
7 That is an overdraft of the Sacramento River. This
8 needs to be seriously considered as if we are not going
9 to have sufficient fresh water flows into the Delta,
10 we're going to have increased toxicity in our Delta,
11 increased salinity, heavy metals, pesticides,
12 herbicides. We'll probably have reduced dissolve oxygen
13 and we will be causing an overall tipping of the
14 ecological thresholds away from resiliency and
15 sustainability.

16 So again, we urge you to consider a no-tunnel
17 alternative and thoroughly consult with tribal
18 governments and communities.

19 Thank you.

20 MS. BARBIERI: Thank you very much.

21 Mr. Conover, before you begin, I'd like to call
22 the next three. Todd Bloomstine, Isaac Kinney and
23 Regina Chichizole. If you could cue up, that would be
24 great.

25 Mr. Conover.

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1 Fourth, an environmental justice section must be
2 included studying the Eastern Contra Costa, San Joaquin
3 and Southern Sacramento communities and the scope of
4 construction and operational impacts to them.

5 Finally, transportation impacts must be based on
6 a full and complete project description, including the
7 provision of all construction materials and logistics
8 for the tunnel construction period.

9 Thank you for running this as a public hearing
10 and thank you for the opportunity to comment.

11 MS. BARBIERI: Thanks very much.

12 And Mr. Moriyama, before you start, I'm going to
13 call up the next three. James Thuerwachter. Again, I
14 apologize if I'm mispronouncing your name. Please
15 correct me. Osha Meserve and Jeff Durbin.

16 So please proceed.

17 MR. MORIYAMA: Hi. Thank you for putting this
18 on. My name is Cliff Moriyama. I'm here today on
19 behalf of the California Building Industry Association.
20 CBIA represents over 3,000 members engaged in all facets
21 of the state's home building industry.

22 I'm here today to express our support for the
23 notice of preparation of this project. One aspect I
24 would think is critical is the continued use of the
25 6,000 CFS figure as you move forward through your

1 calculations and as your EIR process moves forward.

2 We're also pleased that it's tied to the
3 governor's resilience portfolio document. Understand
4 that's still in draft form, but I think it also
5 recognizes that this proposed project is not a panacea.
6 There are other aspects that the state has taken into
7 account: Water recycling, water conservation,
8 conjunctive-use programs. All of that's key, and we
9 believe that this is a key element in the entire -- you
10 know, the holistic approach to deal with water
11 resilience in the State of California.

12 Appreciate our ability to comment, and we'll be
13 submitting some more detailed, written comments later.
14 Thanks.

15 MS. BARBIERI: Thank you.

16 Please tell me how to pronounce your last name.

17 MR. THUERWACHTER: It's Thuerwachter.

18 MS. BARBIERI: Thuerwachter. Okay. Thank you.
19 Please proceed.

20 MR. THUERWACHTER: Good afternoon, and thank you
21 for holding this public hearing. My name is James
22 Thuerwachter with the California Alliance For Jobs. Our
23 organization represents over 2,000 heavy construction
24 companies and over 80,000 union construction workers,
25 and we advocate for prudent investments and public

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1 to stop just huge diversions from this system, greatly
2 increased diversions when it's so clear and our own
3 state water board has made it so clear, we need greater
4 in stream flows, we need greater flows through the
5 Delta, not less.

6 Well, what I'm trying to say really quickly,
7 we're doing things out of order. It does not make sense
8 to invest in tunnels that have greater capacity than
9 what they can actually transmit in an environmentally
10 sound way. To say we're going to wait on the operations
11 plan until we've already got this investment is not
12 realistic to think we're going to build a big tunnel,
13 but we'll only use a little bit of it.

14 MS. BARBIERI: Thank you for your comments.

15 Is it Ms. Frank or Ms. Rey-Frank?

16 MS. FRANK: Ms. Frank.

17 MS. BARBIERI: Ms. Frank, yeah. Thank you.

18 MS. FRANK: My name is Danielle Ray, and I'm a
19 member of the Hoopa tribe. We're, like, five hours up
20 north, and we live on the Trinity River, which is a
21 tributary to the Klamath, and we weren't one of the
22 tribes who got a letter, even though we are greatly
23 affected by this, well, proposition.

24 We use -- we live on the Trinity River, which we
25 use for -- it's, like, our lifeline. We use it for

1 everything, recreation. It's a big part of our culture.
2 It's actually mentioned in our creation story, because
3 that's how important it is to us. It's where we come
4 from, what we know. It's everything to us, and it's
5 been put in danger by projects just like this so many
6 times that half our water is being diverted as is.

7 There's -- our fish are endangered. There is so
8 much diversity that's just dying next to the river,
9 because we don't have enough water. And this
10 proposes -- this takes water from us, yet we weren't
11 taken into consideration enough.

12 We -- it's -- hold on. So our entire existence,
13 we've been taught to thank the river and to take -- to
14 appreciate everything the river gives us, and yet we
15 haven't been able to do that, because we've been so busy
16 fighting for the river, fighting for the rights to just
17 appreciate it, because we can, because it's not going to
18 be there for very much longer if we don't do things like
19 this and stop projects like this.

20 So we're pretty much just asking to reconsider
21 and we're urging you to reconsider this whole thing and
22 take us into account, take everything we know into
23 account, because without our river, we're nothing.
24 We -- our culture is if you nothing, our people are
25 nothing. So take that into account and just reconsider

1 this.

2 Thank you.

3 MS. BARBIERI: Thank you very much.

4 Ms. Robbins.

5 MS. ROBBINS: My name is Margaret Robbins. I'm
6 a member of the Yurok tribe. I am here to request that
7 you guys expand the scope of the project to include the
8 Trinity River below the dam/reservoir and also the
9 Klamath River, because the Trinity is a major tributary
10 to the Klamath. And so when you take water away from
11 the Trinity, it affects the Klamath. The Klamath drains
12 into the Pacific Ocean, as you know, and that's where
13 the salmon come up.

14 So if you divert water from the reservoirs when
15 they are higher than when -- in the summertime when
16 there is not as much water in the river to sustain the
17 salmon population, there won't be enough water in those
18 reservoirs to let loose to keep the salmon alive.

19 In 2002, we had a massive fish kill on the lower
20 Klamath River. 60,000 fish laid rotting on the banks of
21 the river, because there was not enough water in the
22 river. It got too warm. There was blue-green algae.
23 The fish literally suffocated to death. There is no
24 excess water to take from the Trinity River. You will
25 destroy the salmon population and you'll destroy the

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1 this.

2 Thank you.

3 MS. BARBIERI: Thank you very much.

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20 Klamath River. 60,000 fish laid rotting on the banks of
21 the river, because there was not enough water in the
22 river. It got too warm. There was blue-green algae.
23 The fish literally suffocated to death. There is no
24 excess water to take from the Trinity River. You will
25 destroy the salmon population and you'll destroy the

1 lifeways of the tribes that depend on that water and the
2 salmon.

3 Please consider what you're doing and how it
4 affects the people who live on the river. I request
5 that you go further north to get comments from the
6 people who live along the Trinity and Klamath Rivers,
7 because this does affect us.

8 Thank you.

9 MS. BARBIERI: Thank you very much.

10 is it Monique? Could you tell me how to
11 pronounce your last name.

12 MS. SONOKEY: You got it. I spelled it on the
13 form.

14 MS. BARBIERI: Thank you. Before you start, I
15 just wanted to call the next three people. Molly
16 Culton, Tim Stroshane and Cliff Moriyama, if you could
17 cue up.

18 Okay. Please proceed.

19 MS. SONOKEY: Monique Sonokey. I'm Chumash and
20 Tongva, but I've lived on the Yurok and Hoopa
21 reservations, so a lot of the work I did was there. So
22 we're talking about modernization and innovation, but
23 what it really looks like is they're just trying to
24 build -- they're trying to build two big tunnels. I
25 haven't really heard anything about innovation and, you

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1 being -- happening. Again, you know, start looking into
2 some desalination plants.

3 MS. BARBIERI: Thank you for your comment.

4 Mr. Saunders.

5 MR. SAUNDERS: Yes. Thank you for having these
6 meetings. Although I have to say, I call them listening
7 sessions, because I know that I feel the public interest
8 has really not been taken seriously, and there have been
9 many, many meetings that have taken place behind closed
10 doors.

11 I was here several years ago speaking out
12 against the Delta tunnels. In fact I wrote my speech in
13 the audience when I heard people pour their hearts out,
14 people whose land are going to be affected fourth, fifth
15 generation, business owners, fishermen, ranchers, people
16 like that, environmental advocates and activists, people
17 of groups that generally do not get together on a single
18 issue like that.

19 One of the things is I also want to thank the
20 person who spoke from the Sierra Club for highlighting
21 the numerous impacts that this boondoggle plan will
22 affect, something that's often forgotten, that later
23 years, when there are major issues, that when the plan
24 goes awry, the officials that put the plan together
25 often call it unintended consequences. Sadly, we're the

1 ones that live with the unintended consequences at great
2 expense: Great expense of our livelihood, great expense
3 of our natural resources, great expense of our ecology,
4 great expense at our life. We forget about all the
5 people that came before us.

6 For me, I think if you want to come up with a
7 plan of any kind, sit down with all the tribal people.
8 They've been around. They've been dealing with this for
9 thousands of years, and actually, they're still around
10 and they know how to maintain the environment because
11 they respect the environment. They know how to deal
12 with everything that is part of their culture, their
13 history and their life-style.

14 And whether or not they're considered by the
15 federal government to be an officially sanctioned group
16 is malarky. I think it should be up to people like
17 Winnemanu Wintu and other tribes that are not considered
18 recognized. They should decide whether they want to
19 recognize the federal government.

20 The problem here is my speech, although I wrote
21 it regarding twin tunnels, I guess I could have cut it
22 in half for a single tunnel. Are we going to be back in
23 a couple of years for a half tunnel? I mean, you know,
24 really what this is about corporate welfare for the
25 wealthy agri-business growers, Stewart Resnick and all

1 those other people like him and his family.

2 And we cannot afford -- we can no longer afford
3 to subsidize the rich, nor should we have to. We, the
4 people, deserve far better than we're getting. We don't
5 need a tunnel. What we need to do is start looking to
6 our European friends who have many, many alternatives to
7 our really wrong-headed 19th century ideas about how to
8 deal with water, moving water, dealing with environment,
9 dealing with ecology and things like that. We're going
10 to keep working our way towards extinction if we keep
11 going down this foolish path.

12 Thank you.

13 MS. BARBIERI: Thank you.

14 Mr. Valdez, just before you begin, I just want
15 to call a couple other people up. Bob Wright and Kyle
16 Griffith, if you could get in the cue.

17 And Mr. Valdez, please proceed.

18 MR. VALDEZ: Thank you. My name is Roberto
19 Valdez. I'm a Vacaville resident from Solano County.
20 And today, I took the time even with all the hearings
21 going on on TV. You know what they are. I don't think
22 I need to comment about that. I had to come here. And
23 it's because, you know, of -- I want to thank you for
24 the opportunity to make my comments today. And I
25 encourage everybody, whether you agree or disagree with

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DELTA CONVEYANCE PROJECT

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1 lifeways of the tribes that depend on that water and the
2 salmon.

3 Please consider what you're doing and how it
4 affects the people who live on the river. I request
5 that you go further north to get comments from the
6 people who live along the Trinity and Klamath Rivers,
7 because this does affect us.

8 Thank you.

9 MS. BARBIERI: Thank you very much.

10 is it Monique? Could you tell me how to
11 pronounce your last name.

12 MS. SONOKEY: You got it. I spelled it on the
13 form.

14 MS. BARBIERI: Thank you. Before you start, I
15 just wanted to call the next three people. Molly
16 Culton, Tim Stroshane and Cliff Moriyama, if you could
17 cue up.

18 Okay. Please proceed.

19 MS. SONOKEY: Monique Sonokey. I'm Chumash and
20 Tongva, but I've lived on the Yurok and Hoopa
21 reservations, so a lot of the work I did was there. So
22 we're talking about modernization and innovation, but
23 what it really looks like is they're just trying to
24 build -- they're trying to build two big tunnels. I
25 haven't really heard anything about innovation and, you

1 know, modern technology. We have a lot of that here
2 now.

3 I think mandatory conservation has to be at the
4 forefront of this, because it's not just building the
5 tunnels. It's -- just because you build tunnels doesn't
6 mean the water is going to come. It doesn't mean the
7 water is not going be to wasted, so mandatory
8 conservation is really important, especially for big
9 business. We see a lot of waste in big ag. We need to
10 stop water subsidies for big ag. We need to stop
11 wasteful water techniques, such as flooding pastures to
12 maintain their personal allotments, and we need to work
13 on doing more dry farming, sustainable methods here in
14 California.

15 Also, if you increase, you know, the dry farming
16 and do all these things I'm suggesting, then you're
17 going to have a clean water supply. You're going to
18 have more water. If we do the opposite, which is what
19 we're looking at right now, is we're going to have less
20 water and more polluted water. So it needs to go beyond
21 how much water we can get. We need to look at how to
22 make sure our water is pristine.

23 And then the other thing about the current
24 tunnel that you have now, how do we improve that instead
25 of just making it bigger and deeper, which is going to

1 be highly problematic; capping it, putting solar panels
2 on it to create more energy, putting micro hydro within
3 it to create more energy. I think those are all just
4 modern technologies. We have it here. Why aren't we
5 using it?

6 And then also, talking about the UN DRIP free
7 and informed prior consent. This is not is a free
8 process. Again, you heard tribal members drove five
9 hours to get here. If you don't have the meetings where
10 the majority of people are affected by it and not just
11 about using water, but about livelihood and cultures.
12 If you don't have meetings up there, then it's not free.
13 It's not informed, because what you asked for earlier,
14 too, is how do we make sure that we have the
15 information? How is it really going to affect the
16 water? How is it really going to affect the tribes?
17 How is it really going to affect the fish and the
18 consent?

19 You should be meeting with each and every tribe
20 personally and getting full consent from each and every
21 tribe in order to even allow this project to go through,
22 before you even start studies. You're wasting your
23 time, because you are going against the United Nations
24 Declaration of Rights of indigenous peoples'
25 free-informed prior consent. And then again, the

1 question about two tunnels versus one, if you're not
2 asking for more water, you're lying, because you're
3 gonna get more water in the future.

4 Thank you.

5 MS. BARBIERI: Thank you for your comment.

6 Ms. Culton.

7 MS. CULTON: Good afternoon. My name is Molly
8 Culton. I'm here on behalf of Sierra Club California
9 and our half a million members statewide. We strongly
10 advise that DWR fully assess a no-tunnel alternative.
11 The proposed project will not restore or protect water
12 reliability for California. Indeed, the proposed
13 project will worsen environmental health conditions in
14 the Delta to the detriment of the Delta ecosystem and
15 Delta communities.

16 The state continuously argues that this will not
17 increase diversions from the Delta, but we know this is
18 not the case. Due to both state and federal proposals
19 relating to operations of the respective systems,
20 diversions from an already fragile ecosystem will
21 increase and the tunnel will facilitate those
22 diversions.

23 So we strongly encourage DWR to consider the
24 following: The EIR should analyze alternatives that
25 increase Delta outflow and reduce exports as compared to

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1 storage.

2 The EIR must adequately analyze the
3 effectiveness of proposed mitigation in conservation
4 measures over the term of the tunnel project. And
5 lastly, the EIR should analyze the economic costs and
6 benefits of the single tunnel project, especially for
7 those rate payers and cities south of the Delta who will
8 see an increase in water rates due to tunnel operations.

9 Thank you.

10 MS. BARBIERI: Thanks very much.

11 Mr. Stroshane.

12 MR. STROSHANE: I'm Tim Stroshane, policy
13 analyst with Restore The Delta. I have these comments
14 on the tunnel option notice of preparation. First, the
15 statement of purpose and objectives fails to include the
16 purpose of giving and facilitating for water contractors
17 more incentives to seek and transact water transfers
18 from north of Delta willing sellers.

19 Second, construction and operational impacts of
20 the tunnel option should be fully evaluated in the DEIR
21 for all issue areas and especially for flow.

22 Third, public health impacts must include
23 potential contribution of the proposed project to spread
24 of harmful algal blooms of both construction and
25 operations.

1 Fourth, an environmental justice section must be
2 included studying the Eastern Contra Costa, San Joaquin
3 and Southern Sacramento communities and the scope of
4 construction and operational impacts to them.

5 Finally, transportation impacts must be based on
6 a full and complete project description, including the
7 provision of all construction materials and logistics
8 for the tunnel construction period.

9 Thank you for running this as a public hearing
10 and thank you for the opportunity to comment.

11 MS. BARBIERI: Thanks very much.

12 And Mr. Moriyama, before you start, I'm going to
13 call up the next three. James Thuerwachter. Again, I
14 apologize if I'm mispronouncing your name. Please
15 correct me. Osha Meserve and Jeff Durbin.

16 So please proceed.

17 MR. MORIYAMA: Hi. Thank you for putting this
18 on. My name is Cliff Moriyama. I'm here today on
19 behalf of the California Building Industry Association.
20 CBIA represents over 3,000 members engaged in all facets
21 of the state's home building industry.

22 I'm here today to express our support for the
23 notice of preparation of this project. One aspect I
24 would think is critical is the continued use of the
25 6,000 CFS figure as you move forward through your

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1 calculations and as your EIR process moves forward.

2 We're also pleased that it's tied to the
3 governor's resilience portfolio document. Understand
4 that's still in draft form, but I think it also
5 recognizes that this proposed project is not a panacea.
6 There are other aspects that the state has taken into
7 account: Water recycling, water conservation,
8 conjunctive-use programs. All of that's key, and we
9 believe that this is a key element in the entire -- you
10 know, the holistic approach to deal with water
11 resilience in the State of California.

12 Appreciate our ability to comment, and we'll be
13 submitting some more detailed, written comments later.
14 Thanks.

15 MS. BARBIERI: Thank you.

16 Please tell me how to pronounce your last name.

17 MR. THUERWACHTER: It's Thuerwachter.

18 MS. BARBIERI: Thuerwachter. Okay. Thank you.
19 Please proceed.

20 MR. THUERWACHTER: Good afternoon, and thank you
21 for holding this public hearing. My name is James
22 Thuerwachter with the California Alliance For Jobs. Our
23 organization represents over 2,000 heavy construction
24 companies and over 80,000 union construction workers,
25 and we advocate for prudent investments and public

1 infrastructure projects.

2 We're here today to express our strong support
3 of the governor's Delta conveyance project. As
4 mentioned previously, this is just one part of the
5 solution to the state's complex water issues. One and
6 two-thirds of Californians rely on a water distribution
7 system that is both outdated and vulnerable to the
8 threats of both climate change and natural disasters.

9 Droughts will be dryer and last longer, while
10 rainy years will inevitably carry an increased risk of
11 floodings.

12 Our current water distribution system isn't
13 capable of handling the challenges associated with this
14 new water -- with the new water feature. A modernized
15 Delta conveyance will improve our ability to capture and
16 move water during and after storm events to better
17 prepare for future dry years. It will also fortify our
18 infrastructure to withstand the hazards posed by
19 earthquakes and floods.

20 Our organization believes that the pumping
21 capacity of 6,000 CFS will greatly improve our ability
22 to protect water quality and reliability. However, we
23 do caution the board against considering smaller
24 capacities.

25 Moving forward with a project that does not

1 balance protecting water security with enough capacity
2 to pencil out financially would simply not make sense.
3 This whole proposal is urgently needed and the time to
4 act is now.

5 Thank you.

6 MS. BARBIERI: Thank you.

7 Ms. Meserve.

8 MS. MESERVE: Good afternoon. Thank you. My
9 name is Osha Meserve from Local Agencies of the North
10 Delta. Appreciate all the people from all over the
11 State here today, and I know some of you came a long
12 ways. I was lucky to only come a couple blocks.

13 I've been working in the fight against the
14 tunnel project from 2008 to 2019 when the two-tunnel
15 project went away. We waited a year to see what else
16 could come about that might better meet the co-equal
17 goals in the Delta Reform Act of restoring the ecosystem
18 and helping with water supplies, and now we're basically
19 seeing the very same project on the same stretch of the
20 river with the same basic technology. And so it's very
21 disappointing to see where this is headed and that we're
22 basically on the same track as the predecessor to our
23 current governor.

24 There are alternatives to the tunnels that have
25 not been explored, and we would like to see those

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1 so any suggestions are welcome.

2 MS. CHICHIZOLE: Okay. Well, there is a lot of
3 people here who drove about five hours to get here today
4 because they wanted to comment, so it would be really
5 great if you guys did consider that. Thank you.

6 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Hello, my question is I wanted
7 to see you guys' involvement with locally, regional and
8 federally recognized tribes up until now. And again,
9 how you all, especially without having a meeting north
10 of here, how you all are ensuring free and prior
11 informed consent from the indigenous peoples of the
12 area.

13 MS. BUCKMAN: So tribal involvement follows a
14 slightly different process. So because we have AB-52 in
15 place, and also the Department of Water Resources has a
16 tribal engagement policy, we use those processes to
17 engage with tribes. So we sent out 177 letters to
18 tribal representatives to try to initiate consultation
19 with those tribes. I think that was 117 tribes. And we
20 identified those tribes by the project area map I showed
21 earlier. If any piece of a potential area touched a
22 county, we looked at all of the tribes that had
23 interests in that county and sent them a letter
24 notifying them.

25 As part of that, any interested tribes, we are

1 going to coordinate with in the best way possible for
2 them. So we are going through a pretty detailed process
3 to try to feedback and input from the tribes.

4 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Just to clarify, those are
5 federally recognized tribes or are those --

6 MS. BUCKMAN: Federally recognized tribes.

7 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: How about the local and
8 regional recognized tribes?

9 MS. BUCKMAN: That is a question I might need to
10 follow-up with you on. I think that some of them are on
11 the list, but I'm not sure. We will follow up.

12 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Yes. Especially with the
13 Declaration of Rights of Indigenous Peoples, have to
14 make sure we're on -- in alignment here.

15 MS. BUCKMAN: We'll follow up. Thank you.

16 MS. BARBIERI: So just a quick time check. I
17 would like to try to start comments in about five
18 minutes or so. So we'll go through our next three
19 folks.

20 MR. KNUDSON: I'll try to be quick.

21 MS. BARBIERI: Yeah. No problem.

22 MR. KNUDSON: My name is Arthur Knudson. I'm a
23 retired fish biologist. I live here in Sacramento and
24 I've very familiar with the Delta. But I was looking at
25 your goals and objectives, and it seems like they're

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1 those other people like him and his family.

2 And we cannot afford -- we can no longer afford
3 to subsidize the rich, nor should we have to. We, the
4 people, deserve far better than we're getting. We don't
5 need a tunnel. What we need to do is start looking to
6 our European friends who have many, many alternatives to
7 our really wrong-headed 19th century ideas about how to
8 deal with water, moving water, dealing with environment,
9 dealing with ecology and things like that. We're going
10 to keep working our way towards extinction if we keep
11 going down this foolish path.

12 Thank you.

13 MS. BARBIERI: Thank you.

14 Mr. Valdez, just before you begin, I just want
15 to call a couple other people up. Bob Wright and Kyle
16 Griffith, if you could get in the cue.

17 And Mr. Valdez, please proceed.

18 MR. VALDEZ: Thank you. My name is Roberto
19 Valdez. I'm a Vacaville resident from Solano County.
20 And today, I took the time even with all the hearings
21 going on on TV. You know what they are. I don't think
22 I need to comment about that. I had to come here. And
23 it's because, you know, of -- I want to thank you for
24 the opportunity to make my comments today. And I
25 encourage everybody, whether you agree or disagree with

1 this project, that you get involved. Don't go to sleep.
2 Whatever -- how busy you are in your life, make time for
3 this.

4 The Delta -- let me tell you why I got involved
5 in the Delta. I got involved in the Delta because one
6 day, and I'm a librarian, I read a book called
7 California The Wonderful, and it's written by Edwin --
8 Charles Edwin Marcum. And if you know anything about
9 him, he was a great advocate for the little guy, not
10 just the big guy, and especially for California. And he
11 wrote this -- he is one person that appreciated the Bay
12 Delta. It's where -- he described it as it's where the
13 Sacramento and the San Joaquin River converge. And we
14 all know where that leads, to the Bay.

15 And anyway, so -- but the other thing I want to
16 let you know before I continue is that I have been
17 involved in the past with 15 meetings at least with the
18 Bay Delta conservation plan and I pretty much supported
19 it then and I haven't given up yet. Okay?

20 So anyway, I want to say to you don't give up,
21 whatever your views are. I'm moved by the number of
22 people here and what I've heard so far, especially from
23 the Native American community.

24 Anyway, why? Because -- why is this so
25 important? Because this is a historical moment for both

1 The Save and Restore The Bay Delta, and to continue to
2 deliver water resources to both Northern California and
3 Southern California, we cannot -- what is it? --
4 disregard the south because we live in the north or vice
5 versa. And let me tell you, I love the south just as
6 much as I love the north. I would love to live in the
7 desert just as much as I'd like to live in the pine
8 woods here and the mountains that you have here. And I
9 wasn't born here, but our son was.

10 And let me just say, to me, again, what I -- and
11 reflecting what I've learned from all those hearings
12 from really outstanding people that have been involved
13 from all levels of the community, that this is not just
14 an effort to save the wildlife, but also to restore our
15 economy for the future of California.

16 And let me say that, you know, I can only tell
17 you that the -- and I want to especially thank the
18 Department of Water Resources. Let me tell you, they
19 have been outstanding. They have been open. They have
20 provided all the information to everybody who wants to
21 get involved. And, you know, they have -- and they --

22 MS. BARBIERI: Thank you.

23 MR. VALDEZ: Okay. Well, anyway, I understand
24 the comments and -- but the tradeoff is if they want
25 their water down south, they need to put everybody

1 conserve water because of the drought, you know what.

2 MS. BARBIERI: Make sure you submit your written
3 comments, too.

4 MR. VALDEZ: Thank you.

5 MS. BARBIERI: Mr. Wright.

6 MR. WRIGHT: Bob Wright on behalf of Sierra Club
7 of California. And Department of Water Resources has
8 been consistent going back to May of 2011, what was
9 called the BCCP and that tunnel project, the National
10 Academy of Sciences said DWR, the state, was putting the
11 cart before the horse, because it wasn't looking at
12 alternatives.

13 And you've heard a number of people talk about
14 the no-tunnel alternative, and they're not talking to
15 you about the CEQA-required no-project alternative.
16 That you have to consider under the law, the California
17 Environmental Quality Act.

18 What they're talking to you about is a separate
19 project alternative, which is finally, after all these
20 years, really a decade, looking at reducing exports, not
21 just to reduce exports, but that's to increase the fresh
22 water flows through the Delta, begin to save and restore
23 the Delta. And instead of focusing on a multi-billion
24 dollar public works project, instead, focusing on modern
25 things, conservation and recycling. And what they're

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1 can use that as your time to make your one and only
2 comment, if you choose. You can also use this as an
3 opportunity to just verbally summarize whatever written
4 comments you have planned to submit. So don't feel like
5 it's your only opportunity that you have to try to get
6 everything in in the 3 minutes. Try to look at it as an
7 opportunity to, you know, I can say this verbally in
8 front of -- publicly in front of a group of people, but
9 again, don't feel like that's your only opportunity.
10 You can submit written comments of any length, you know,
11 up until March 20th.

12 So I just wanted to make sure that that was
13 clear. It's not your only opportunity. So please, if
14 you feel like it, state your name and your organization
15 and then we'll get the show on the road. So --

16 MS. WALLACE: I'm Susan Wallace. I am not with
17 any organization. I just live in the area, and I've
18 been following the original tunnels and this tunnel, and
19 throughout the process, I've been very concerned that
20 it's -- the emphasis seems more to be moving water than
21 taking care of the whole state. Many of the processes
22 seem to be ignoring the long-term effects on the Delta
23 and the people who depend on the Delta. Taking water
24 there is going to reduce river flow into the Delta, with
25 long-term effects such as increasing salinity, reducing

1 the removal of pollutants, increased algae blooms, and
2 I'm hoping that as you look at this process, you start
3 looking into more benign ways to encourage agriculture
4 in the south without destroying the ecosystem of the
5 Delta. And I don't need three minutes.

6 MS. BARBIERI: Okay.

7 MS. WALLACE: Thank you.

8 MS. BARBIERI: Thanks very much.

9 Yeah. Go ahead.

10 MS. WOODCOCK: My name is Charlene Woodcock. I
11 grew up in Southern California. Childhood trips to the
12 desert taught me the importance of water and the value
13 of water in California. And I'm always horrified when I
14 see giant sprinkler systems in the middle of the day.
15 Not so much anymore I hope.

16 It's obviously a time of water scarcity, and we
17 have to be very careful and try to think as broadly as
18 possible how to allocate this very valuable resource.

19 And in recent decades, probably for the past
20 hundred years, industrial agricultural corporations have
21 had significant influence on California water policy,
22 and that really has to change, because they are not
23 sustainable. And if we're not careful, we're going to
24 wreck California for everyone by concerning -- policy
25 concerning their profits, not long-term needs.

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21 had significant influence on California water policy,
22 and that really has to change, because they are not
23 sustainable. And if we're not careful, we're going to
24 wreck California for everyone by concerning -- policy
25 concerning their profits, not long-term needs.

1 The health of the Delta is essential to our
2 economy, to California's water system and the diversity
3 of fish, plants, animals that it supports. We want our
4 salmon fisheries to thrive, not to be sacrificed to
5 industrial agriculture profits. We want to respect
6 water sheds.

7 This notion that human beings can just move
8 rivers is a short term kind of thinking that we can't
9 afford anymore. Inadequate fresh water flows are
10 damaging the Delta and the salmon and steelhead
11 populations, and the larger California economy is
12 benefiting a few, not the majority.

13 Water waste and wealthy communities should be
14 redirected to more conservationist views and policies
15 and requirements and certainly industrial agriculture
16 should be required both to conserve water, but also to
17 reconsider the kind of plants. The almond orchards I
18 saw planted, new almond orchards in the middle of the
19 draught, just unbelievable. Californians should not be
20 supporting that.

21 Southern California water districts are
22 recognizing the need to conserve water there to clean
23 water to distribute gray water in ways that can relieve
24 the pressure on fresh water, and that needs to be a
25 consideration here. L.A. is working hard at this. So

1 to consider -- to continue using L.A. as an excuse
2 should stop.

3 MS. BARBIERI: Thank you for your comment.

4 Mr. Albert, before you begin, just a couple
5 things I should have mentioned. Maybe I did. I think I
6 meant to, but I didn't. We do have a court reporter, so
7 our court reporter is taking all of your comments. We
8 are also audio recording, so we have that as a backup
9 just in case. So I wanted to let you know that.

10 Please feel free to move the mic to your height.
11 I didn't want that to go unsaid. And I think that was
12 it, other than I wanted to call up the next three
13 people; Danielle Rey Frank, Margaret Robbins and
14 Monique -- again, I apologize if I don't pronounce your
15 names correctly -- Sonokey. So if you could cue up,
16 that would be great.

17 Mr. Albert, please proceed.

18 MR. ALBERT: Heinrich Albert. I'm speaking
19 today on behalf of Friends of the River. Earlier
20 speakers are, in the clarifying questions, raised this
21 issue of will this project result in additional
22 diversions from the system. And I think that that is
23 really a key question. Previous incarnations of around
24 or under the Delta conveyance have advertised that, "Oh,
25 no, this is just for reliability. No more water is

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2 MS. BARBIERI: Make sure you submit your written
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4 MR. VALDEZ: Thank you.

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6 MR. WRIGHT: Bob Wright on behalf of Sierra Club
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18 What they're talking to you about is a separate
19 project alternative, which is finally, after all these
20 years, really a decade, looking at reducing exports, not
21 just to reduce exports, but that's to increase the fresh
22 water flows through the Delta, begin to save and restore
23 the Delta. And instead of focusing on a multi-billion
24 dollar public works project, instead, focusing on modern
25 things, conservation and recycling. And what they're

1 saying to you is that would even reduce -- that would
2 then eliminate even any claimed or arguable need for the
3 tunnel project, which would cost billions of dollars.

4 And we know the reason DWR has never wanted to
5 and has consistently refused to put this alternative
6 before the public, because the people in the public are
7 saying, "Well, wait a minute. We can save billions of
8 dollars, not build this massive public works project,
9 and we get to save and start to restore the Delta."

10 That's a no-brainer.

11 So this time around, in your deed, your draft
12 EIR, even though you don't want to do it, put in an
13 alternative that would reduce exports to increase fresh
14 water flows, and that would mean no tunnel.

15 Thank you.

16 MS. BARBIERI: Thank you.

17 And Mr. Griffith.

18 MR. GRIFFITH: Good afternoon. My name is Kyle
19 Griffith, here representing Californians For Water
20 Security. We are a statewide coalition of more than 80
21 organizations and 10,000 citizens in support of fixing
22 California's aging water distribution infrastructure.

23 We know that climate change is going to impact
24 the way that California receives its water. We can no
25 longer rely on the Delta snow pack or the Sierra snow

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

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DELTA CONVEYANCE PROJECT

CEQA PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING

CERTIFIED COPY

LOCATION: STATE OF CALIFORNIA
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
1001 I Street
Second Floor Auditorium
Sacramento, California 95814

DATE: Monday, February 3, 2020

Reported by: LORI G. PINKERTON, CSR 6031

1 We're pleased to provide our input on the
2 scoping process of the single-tunnel Delta Conveyance
3 Project and primarily request that the new tunnel project
4 move forward with intentionality and certainty.

5 Water reliability and quality are critical to
6 the wellbeing of our region and our state. Advancing the
7 Delta Conveyance Project safeguards our water supply and
8 protects against the impacts of climate change. A safe
9 and reliable water supply has lasting economic impact and
10 encourages the retention of institutions and businesses
11 while also supporting our region's robust tourism
12 industry. At the same time it promotes the mobility to
13 the four million people that call the city of LA home.

14 Safeguarding millions of peoples' water supply
15 is an essential part of preparing for the future. We
16 thank Governor Newsom and the Department of Water
17 Resources for undertaking this project. Thank you.

18 JANET BARBIERI: And as you come up, I just
19 wanted to say you're free to sit here if you want. You
20 don't have to stand in the middle. It's up to you, but
21 go ahead.

22 RON HASSON: Yes. Thank you. My name is
23 Ron Hasson, and I am with the California State Conference
24 NAACP Environmental Justice Committee.

25 We're here to express our strong support for

1 the Delta Conveyance Project. Access to safe drinking
2 water is a basic human right. We cannot continue to
3 stand by while century-old practices continue to
4 deteriorate and threaten our water security, especially
5 for disadvantaged communities.

6 A recent report from the UN Climate Convention
7 confirms that disadvantaged communities in the poorest
8 regions of the west will suffer the most adverse impacts
9 caused by decline in clean water supplies.

10 Due to chemicals and climate change, the Delta
11 Conveyance Project must ensure that we can provide clean
12 drinking water to all communities and at a price far
13 more affordable than many other sources of water. We
14 are proud to stand with a broad coalition of
15 environmentalists, social justice advocates,
16 conservationists, and business supporters who understand
17 the significance of this project.

18 Our water security cannot wait. The time to act
19 is now. Thank you.

20 JANET BARBIERI: Thank you.

21 MICHAEL LEWIS: Good evening. My name is
22 Michael Lewis. I'm the senior vice president of the
23 Construction Industry Coalition on Water Quality.

24 We are a management association comprised of the
25 five largest construction associations in California,

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
DELTA CONVEYANCE PROJECT CEQA PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING

320 WEST FOURTH STREET, LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2020

6:00 P.M.

MICHELE WAGNER

COURT REPORTER

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4 CARRIE BUCKMAN, ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAM MANAGER

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1 Metropolitan and its member agencies are hard at
2 work to develop these types of supplies locally. That
3 includes groundwater/storm water recapture. Obviously,
4 water conservation is the California way of life that we
5 all are committed to, but having that high-quality water
6 from the State Project in the volumes that we have today
7 and protecting that is critical to expanding our local
8 supply. So a modernized State Water Project is really
9 key to our future.

10 And, last, the State Project not only represents
11 one of our most important sources of water, but also one
12 of the most affordable, particularly for our rate payers
13 that are from disadvantaged communities. I want to thank
14 you again for the opportunity to comment tonight.

15 JANET BARBIERI: Thanks very much.

16 Go ahead.

17 DAN DRUGAN: Good evening. My name is
18 Dan Drugan, and I represent Calleguas Municipal Water
19 District located in Ventura County.

20 Calleguas is a member agency of the Metropolitan
21 Water District. And through the Metropolitan Water
22 District, we distribute, and Calleguas supplies, about
23 three-quarters of the population that reside in
24 Ventura County.

25 Virtually all that imported water that we

1 receive comes from the State Water Project, and we
2 strongly support the 6,000 cfs alternative that's
3 described in the NOP.

4 The State has now gone down this path where
5 they'll be investigating the spectrum from 3,000 all
6 the way up to 7,500 cfs to look for alternatives, and
7 we would ask that you not prematurely preclude the
8 alternative right now, as we go through these cost
9 allocation negotiations, for participation with the
10 State water contractors and Simi Valley contractors.

11 So, with that, thank you very much. We do
12 strongly support the Delta conveyance and appreciate your
13 scoping meeting tonight. Thank you.

14 JANET BARBIERI: Thank you very much.

15 Just going to call up the next three real quick.
16 Ron Hasson, Henry Rogers, and Michael Lewis, if you'd
17 come up.

18 And please proceed.

19 CLARA KARGER: Sure. Good evening. I'm
20 Clara Karger with the Central City Association.

21 Founded in 1924, we remain committed to
22 increasing the vibrancy of Downtown Los Angeles and
23 the region more broadly. We represent more than 400
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25 depend on water sourced from the Delta.

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1 energy consumption or water use.

2 The Delta tunnel EIR should not be limited in
3 scope to tunnel sizes large, extra large, and extra,
4 extra large, but rather include a no-tunnel alternative
5 that takes into account the larger context of the Delta
6 and of water exports to Southern California that may,
7 in fact, not be needed and do more harm than good.

8 Finally, we should not cover over the
9 business-as-usual practices of agribusiness -- as was
10 just mentioned by a previous speaker, with pistachio
11 farmers in the Central Valley or the developers that I'm
12 more familiar with in the Southern California
13 Inland Empire that are using much too much water on
14 sprawled development -- with a fig leaf of resilience and
15 water quality. Thank you for your time.

16 JANET BARBIERI: Thanks very much.

17 Mr. Campbell?

18 BRUCE CAMPBELL: Good evening. Thanks for being
19 here. I'm Bruce Campbell.

20 We also agree we need a no-tunnel alternative
21 and not merely a no-project alternative. I understand
22 the current baseline allows excessive water pumping from
23 the Delta related to the Trump Water Plan under bad
24 recent regulations which do not adequately protect
25 threatened and endangered species.

1 So I demand a baseline for the EIR that abides
2 by good biological science and hydrological science in
3 terms of water flow for the ecosystems sourced into the
4 Bay Delta and to protect threatened and endangered
5 species, such as the Delta Smelt and the Chinook Salmon.

6 I just want to emphasize that local jobs will be
7 helped by this and that the jobs will be generally in the
8 Delta, and the jobs also will create 300 million tons of
9 mucky water. Where will that go? And will it survive a
10 1,500, a 500, or 1000-year flood?

11 There are concerning reports that ocean
12 acidification will kill off the algae which provides most
13 of the oxygen for planet Earth. Considering this
14 backdrop, please evaluate the impact of each alternative
15 not only in regards to carbon emissions during
16 construction and during operation of the tunnel, which
17 can accelerate to ocean acidification, but also in
18 regards to approximate current and likely future
19 production of oxygen in the Sacramento San Joaquin Delta
20 as well as the upper San Francisco Bay Delta Region in
21 general.

22 What is the likely impact of each alternative on
23 what is already a worsening situation with toxic algae in
24 the Delta region? Please evaluate each alternative as to
25 likely impact on toxic algae growth within the proposed

1 tunnel and in the Sacramento San Joaquin Delta Region.
2 Please also consider oxygen production in the entire
3 Bay Delta Region in your evaluations.

4 Seeing that San Joaquin Valley agribis and some
5 water agencies from Santa Clara County and beyond will
6 often get their allotments of water ahead of the MWB --
7 MWD behemoth, please carefully evaluate each alternative
8 in regards to water security, water quality, and water
9 quantity for Southern California water consumers.

10 Please evaluate carefully for each alternative
11 how the entire Sacramento San Joaquin Delta food chain
12 would be impacted if there was a major reduction in
13 fresh water reaching the central Delta and San Pablo and
14 San Francisco Bays, such as would occur under the tunnel
15 alternatives.

16 Obviously, essential to include in your analysis
17 of impact on the whole food chain is the impact on the
18 Delta Smelt and Chinook Salmon already mentioned. If the
19 Delta is deprived of it's fresh water -- and I'll comment
20 more later.

21 JANET BARBIERI: Yes. Thank you very much.

22 Mr. Wilson?

23 CHARLEY WILSON: Thank you, and good evening.

24 As others have mentioned, thank you very much for coming
25 to Southern California. I know too frequently with this

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23 Construction Industry Coalition on Water Quality.

24 We are a management association comprised of the
25 five largest construction associations in California,

1 representing 2,000 contractors and their employees. We
2 are funded by a special fund in the labor agreements that
3 set aside money for every hour a member works on a job to
4 benefit industry-wide efforts.

5 For 25 years, we have advocated for thoughtful
6 and achievable water quality goals and water supply
7 projects. We believe that the Delta Conveyance Project
8 is a critical part of an all-the-above collection of
9 measures that we must take in California to make our
10 water supply more reliable and resilient.

11 As you restart this effort to evaluate the
12 options for modernizing water supply and replacing
13 the current method for drawing water from the
14 Sacramento River, there are several things you must
15 consider.

16 First, look closely at the impact each of the
17 options will have on our state's agricultural activities,
18 as they are the breadbasket for the world. Our
19 California farmers are the best at what they do, and we
20 and the rest of the world will only become more dependent
21 on them in the future, not less so, as we push for a
22 plant-based diet for the world.

23 Secondly, the only way to save the Delta is to
24 produce a project that will respond to the ever-changing
25 and less-predictable supply of snowpack that melts and

1 traverses the Delta. A modern system can keep the flows
2 manageable and still provide water for export while
3 preserving the Delta certainly far better than the
4 existing system can.

5 Third, you must include a twin-tunnel
6 alternative among the options. Don't make the mistake we
7 made on the first round by not including a single-tunnel
8 option. Had we done so, we'd be on our way to fixing
9 this problem, not starting all over. No legitimate
10 evaluation can be done at this point without including
11 the original project as an option for comparison
12 purposes.

13 In Southern California we have taken
14 extraordinary steps to reduce water consumption and
15 develop a system for capturing and reusing storm water to
16 expand the supply of reclaimed water and developed local
17 supplies through that adaptation of technology.

18 Those actions, however, will not replace the
19 need for a system to import water. It will certainly
20 reduce that need, but a reliable Delta conveyance system
21 will always have to be part of the new parallel.

22 Thank you for this opportunity to offer these
23 suggestions on behalf of our members and for your future
24 analysis and consideration.

25 JANET BARBIERI: Thanks very much.

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1 Santa Ana River.

2 So these are the -- you know, water management
3 for Southern California is highly regulated, and it's
4 highly restricted. We have requirements, and we do
5 everything we can to live sustainably and manage our
6 groundwater supply sustainably.

7 So I'm here today just to emphasize the need for
8 the project and to encourage and applaud you for going
9 forward and making this happen in a timely and
10 cost-effective way. Thank you.

11 JANET BARBIERI: Thanks very much.

12 Okay. I don't have any other speaker cards.
13 Last call for speaker cards. Okay. Got one more.
14 Thanks very much.

15 CONNOR EVERTS: Thank you very much.
16 Connor Everts from the Environmental Water Caucus
17 statewide organization.

18 Kind of an adventure getting here tonight.
19 I abandoned my car and took the Expo Line. The Expo Line
20 stopped, so I started walking and...

21 I think it's been the same adventure with this
22 project because I feel like déjà vu all over again since
23 we started the Peripheral Canal. Then we went to CALFED,
24 BBCP. A single tunnel follows the double tunnel, but I
25 still don't think we've solved the issues of the cost,

1 the need, and the impacts.

2 I also represent the Environmental Justice
3 Coalition For Water that was asked to make the comment
4 that you probably heard in Sacramento that you should
5 have a meeting in Redding so people -- the tribes and
6 people who want to attend, there's a five-hour drive for
7 some of them. Mine was an equal adventure, but it was
8 just LA traffic.

9 However, my concern with this project also
10 includes -- and I just heard comments from Charley Wilson
11 on the greenhouse gas impacts -- the value of not doing
12 these programs. I'm from Santa Monica, and we are on
13 track to be off imported water a hundred percent by 2023.

14 We have in Los Angeles -- I don't know if it was
15 mentioned earlier -- people have gone since 1978 -- with
16 1.4 million more people. Our demand was flat. Now it's
17 down to around 19 percent. We also have a movement to
18 get off imported water at a much greater level and rely
19 on local jobs and local programs, which we've done a good
20 job of, and we're not done with that.

21 So if you want to fully account for all the
22 impacts of imported water and the impacts of what we're
23 beginning to resolve in terms of our doubling --
24 2.5 million acres at one point. LA's going to go a
25 hundred percent at Hyperion Wastewater Treatment Plant.

1 When you start calculating out all those -- but our
2 ability to tap local water resources that we're
3 maximizing -- you'll see the lack of need on this
4 project.

5 I have other written comments that I will put
6 in, but I want to thank you for this opportunity and
7 waiting for me to speak last. Thank you.

8 JANET BARBIERI: Thank you very much.

9 Okay. Unless there are any other speakers, I
10 think that will conclude the meeting. I don't see any,
11 so I just wanted to say thank you all for your efforts to
12 be here and for your thoughtful comments and have a good
13 evening. Thanks very much.

14 (Whereupon, the public hearing was adjourned at
15 7:09 p.m.)
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CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
DELTA CONVEYANCE PROJECT CEQA PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING

320 WEST FOURTH STREET, LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2020

6:00 P.M.

MICHELE WAGNER

COURT REPORTER

1 APPEARANCES:

2 CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES STAFF:
3 JANET BARBIERI, FACILITATOR
4 CARRIE BUCKMAN, ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAM MANAGER

5 PUBLIC SPEAKERS (IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE):

6 SARAH WILTFONG, BIZFED
7 KEN RAUSH, EL MONTE/SOUTH EL MONTE CHAMBER
8 OF COMMERCE
9 KENDAL ASUNCION, LA AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
10 STEVE ARAKAWA, METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF
11 SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
12 DAN DRUGAN, CALLEGUAS MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT
13 CLARA KARGER, CENTRAL CITY ASSOCIATION
14 RON HASSON, CALIFORNIA STATE CONFERENCE NAACP
15 MICHAEL LEWIS, CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY COALITION
16 ON WATER QUALITY
17 HENRY ROGERS, SBACC
18 KEN COATE, INLAND ACTION
19 DR. MARIO MILCH, KAISER PERMANENTE
20 MARK GREY, BIASC
21 RON MILLER, LA/ORANGE COUNTY BUILDING TRADES
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CATHLEEN PIERONI, INLAND EMPIRE WATER AGENCY
CONNER EVERTS, ENVIRONMENTAL WATER CAUCUS

1 I'm just going to call the next few folks up
2 real quick. Ken Coate, Mario Milch, and Mark Grey.
3 Queue up and please proceed.

4 HENRY ROGERS: Thank you very much. My name's
5 Henry Rogers, and I'm here representing the South Bay
6 Association of Chambers of Commerce, also known as SBACC.

7 Our detailed comments were submitted in writing,
8 but I'm here to support the single-tunnel Delta
9 conveyance system. Our members represent the 17 regional
10 chambers from LAX down to Long Beach. We also serve as
11 the voice of advocacy and issues -- for regional issues
12 that we're seeing within the business community.

13 We are in support of a conveyance tunnel. It's
14 a game changer in the State's infrastructure projects.
15 It's vital to our \$1.6 trillion economy, and more
16 importantly, our businesses and residents have
17 consistently voted in support of it, and we should
18 obviously protect those investments. Thank you very
19 much.

20 JANET BARBIERI: Thank you very much.

21 Mr. Coate?

22 KEN COATE: Thank you. My name is Ken Coate.
23 I'm the environmental chair of a group called
24 Inland Action.

25 We represent diverse businesses and education,

1 water districts -- all kinds of different interests of
2 the Inland Empire, and my focus is on things that affect
3 our environment and the controls that come to us that
4 we're hoping to get ahead of.

5 You know, we submitted a letter that really goes
6 through some of the details that everybody else is
7 talking about here, but I want to go to a more personal
8 point. So I actually grew up in San Francisco, and I
9 lived on the American River for about half of my life.

10 And it was up in the Sierras where we would see
11 the water. So our cabin, my father bought this from a
12 guy that built it in 1915. And so we own five acres on
13 both sides of the American River, and the water level
14 there will go from, you know, running at 900 cfs to
15 almost 20,000. But it only runs at 20,000 for about two
16 or three days.

17 So everybody will look at this and say, "Wow.
18 Why don't they capture that water?" But under the way we
19 capture water now, we can't do that. And the people in
20 Northern California don't get that, but the people in
21 Southern California understand that.

22 Because we take the water so low in the Delta,
23 the impacts are terrible. Even when the water runs high,
24 the water coming out of the Delta -- you know, even if we
25 can figure out how to take it, it impacts the Delta so

1 much that it's -- it has a terrible impact.

2 But by moving it up to where the flow is higher,
3 we save two things. One is we're going to have a problem
4 with salt water coming to everybody anyway. That's not
5 even included in the thoughts that we've had previously.
6 Rising sea level, you know, some people were dealing with
7 it in the last 20 years, and I've been working on this
8 for 30.

9 But if you take it to the higher level, the
10 impacts are much less. So what I find is my friends in
11 Northern California, their opposition to this is because
12 they don't want it up by them. But the fact is it's much
13 healthier for the Delta to take the water where the water
14 is running faster, and that's really the main point of
15 this project.

16 So we support the 6,000 cfs tunnel, and the fact
17 is there's people up there saying we're going to pay for
18 it, and we get that. We're going to pay for this tunnel,
19 yes. I don't understand why people think the State's
20 going to pay for it.

21 And that the impact on the Delta's much less.
22 We're not taking more water. We're going to take it at
23 the right time, and I think if this message can get
24 across to my Northern California friends, they'd
25 understand the importance of it.

1 So I appreciate you taking the time to do this
2 because it's, you know, not a lot of fun to have to
3 listen to all the different perspectives. This will be
4 outlined in the letter that we laid out for you, but I
5 want you to understand that, on a personal level, it's
6 the only fix for all of our friends down here. So thank
7 you. Thank you for your time.

8 JANET BARBIERI: Thanks very much.

9 Mr. Milch?

10 MARIO MILCH: Thank you. I am a physician,
11 having worked at Kaiser Permanente for over 31 years.

12 I am not an expert in water or water quality,
13 but I would like to just throw out some possible
14 alternatives. My understanding is this project would
15 cost at least \$100 million -- probably a lot more by the
16 time it's finished.

17 And I know that the technology has improved
18 greatly to the point where water can be recycled safely.
19 And other alternatives, of course, are better rain --
20 conservation of the water that could be stored, other,
21 obviously, projects that reduce consumption, and I think
22 there's been a lot of progress in this.

23 And the other alternative that I wonder if has
24 been considered is to just strengthen the present
25 aqueduct and somehow, you know, make it maybe more

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1 desperate need of repair. It's one natural disaster,
2 such as a flood or earthquake, away from putting millions
3 of Californians' ability to access clean water at risk.

4 I know about water. I'm a 41-year member of the
5 plumbers union, so I'm a plumber, and I've worked with
6 water all my life. And I can tell you that to be without
7 water is real dangerous, and we stand that risk here
8 every day in Southern California just from having a weak,
9 aging system up there in the northern part of the state.

10 While we're very proud to be active in projects
11 in LA and Orange County, such as desalination plants,
12 major recycle water systems, and reservoirs, we will
13 always need imported water from Northern California.
14 Maybe less in future years, but we will always need it to
15 supply Northern LA County. We have to get the water from
16 somewhere in order to recycle it.

17 Upgrading our water infrastructure is a bold
18 step toward a more secure water future for California.
19 This will protect and create thousands of local jobs. We
20 urge the State to move forward with this project. Thank
21 you.

22 JANET BARBIERI: Thank you very much.

23 Mr. Portillo?

24 LUIS PORTILLO: Good evening. My name is
25 Luis Portillo. I'm with the Inland Empire Economic

1 Partnership, which represents industry partners and
2 owners of both the public and private sector in the
3 Inland Empire.

4 I want to thank you for the opportunity to
5 provide input and express our support of the single
6 Delta Tunnel Conveyance Project being advanced by the
7 Department of Water Resources. We appreciate
8 Governor Newsom's leadership to help ensure a safe,
9 affordable, and reliable water supply for much of
10 California.

11 Water is essential to our physical health and
12 its very wellbeing. It's our life blood and a
13 fundamental need. And while Southern Californians have
14 the right to a clean, reliable, and affordable water
15 supply, the delivery system for moving water to our
16 region, it's old, it's vulnerable, and in desperate need
17 of repair.

18 More than 30 percent of our water supply comes
19 from the Sierra Nevada Mountains. It provides the
20 backbone water supply for millions of people and our
21 \$1.6 trillion economy.

22 Modernizing and upgrading our state's ageing
23 infrastructure with a single-tunnel, properly sized --
24 60,000 cubic feet per second of water -- supply from the
25 State Water Project will allow us to more efficiently

1 move water, restore the Delta ecosystem, and manage the
2 water supply for climate extremes.

3 You know, we're not alone in our support.
4 There's widespread backing for this project throughout
5 Southern California and the state from diverse
6 communities ranging from labor to business to public
7 agencies to nonprofits to agriculture.

8 You know, in fact, today we just joined a
9 coalition of business organizations in Inland Empire that
10 submitted a formal written response in support of this
11 project.

12 Among those groups signing off that letter were
13 Chino Valley Chamber of Commerce, the Greater Coachella
14 Valley Chamber of Commerce, the Greater Ontario Business
15 Council, the Hesperia Chamber of Commerce, the
16 Rancho Cucamonga Chamber of Commerce, the Victor Valley
17 Chamber of Commerce.

18 These small groups are located sometimes maybe
19 an hour, an hour and a half, maybe two hours from here.
20 So as you do future things, you might want to consider:
21 How do we provide them the opportunity? If you're from
22 Coachella, are you going to drive two and a half hours to
23 be here?

24 You know, because we all recognize that a severe
25 water shortage would come with an enormous economic cost

1 and that the time to move forward is now. The status quo
2 in the Delta is unacceptable both for the Delta
3 environment and the California economy, and we support
4 Governor Newsom's efforts to move forward in the planning
5 process in the manner that achieves the goal of water
6 supply reliability and ecosystem restoration.

7 With our largest and most affordable water
8 supply at risk, we need the reliability the proposed
9 Delta Conveyance Project will provide. Thank you for the
10 opportunity and for your support. Thank you.

11 JANET BARBIERI: Thanks very much.

12 I'm just going to call the next three folks up
13 real quick. Brandon Dawson, Vicki Kirschenbaum, and
14 Marci Stanage.

15 Please proceed.

16 ROBERT HUNTER: Good evening. I'm
17 Robert Hunter, the general manager of the Municipal Water
18 District of Orange County. Through 28 member agencies,
19 we provide water to over 2.3 million people.

20 Thanks for the opportunity tonight to talk about
21 the scope of the EIR. Tonight is talking about the study
22 process, not the decision on the final project, so I'm
23 going to address the process issues.

24 MWDOC is in full support of the purpose and
25 objectives listed on DWR's NOP fact sheet including:

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1 comparison. Thank you.

2 JANET BARBIERI: Thanks very much.

3 And, Ms. Pieroni? Sorry if I'm pronouncing your
4 name incorrectly.

5 CATHLEEN PIERONI: No. You actually got it.

6 JANET BARBIERI: Okay.

7 CATHLEEN PIERONI: So my name is
8 Cathleen Pieroni. I'm the manager of government
9 relations at the Inland Empire Utilities Agency, which
10 is a wholesale water provider in the Inland Empire --
11 242 square miles represented by 900,000 people. We
12 import water from the Metropolitan Water District, which
13 we in turn supply to our retail water agencies.

14 For the sake of brevity, I'll just kind of say
15 "ditto" to Mr. Wilson's comments. They were very good.

16 But I did want to assure you that from a
17 Northern California perspective that our region really
18 is doing everything we can to just sustain our water
19 supplies.

20 My agency takes a hundred percent of the waste
21 water that comes to us, and we recycle it. So we use
22 that tertiary treated groundwater, recycled water, to
23 recharge the groundwater supplies at the Chino Basin that
24 we must maintain in a sustainable manner because it is
25 adjudicated. We also have requirements to replenish the

1 Santa Ana River.

2 So these are the -- you know, water management
3 for Southern California is highly regulated, and it's
4 highly restricted. We have requirements, and we do
5 everything we can to live sustainably and manage our
6 groundwater supply sustainably.

7 So I'm here today just to emphasize the need for
8 the project and to encourage and applaud you for going
9 forward and making this happen in a timely and
10 cost-effective way. Thank you.

11 JANET BARBIERI: Thanks very much.

12 Okay. I don't have any other speaker cards.
13 Last call for speaker cards. Okay. Got one more.
14 Thanks very much.

15 CONNOR EVERTS: Thank you very much.
16 Connor Everts from the Environmental Water Caucus
17 statewide organization.

18 Kind of an adventure getting here tonight.
19 I abandoned my car and took the Expo Line. The Expo Line
20 stopped, so I started walking and...

21 I think it's been the same adventure with this
22 project because I feel like déjà vu all over again since
23 we started the Peripheral Canal. Then we went to CALFED,
24 BBCP. A single tunnel follows the double tunnel, but I
25 still don't think we've solved the issues of the cost,

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1 This is a very strong fundamental tenet of ours.
2 It's not either/or. We need an all-of-the-above
3 portfolio approach to improving the resilience of our
4 water supply. Delta conveyance is central to a rich and
5 comprehensive portfolio approach.

6 Our cities and farms are doing a great job with
7 water conservation and developing new local water
8 resources, but we still desperately need to invest in our
9 conveyance system. It's the only way to make the local
10 solutions work most effectively and efficiently.

11 And, finally, we encourage the State to move
12 forward with this project to improve the reliability of
13 our water distribution system, of course, while
14 supporting housing in Southern California. Thank you for
15 the time.

16 JANET BARBIERI: Thank you very much.

17 Mr. Miller?

18 RON MILLER: Good evening. I'm Ron Miller,
19 executive secretary of the LA/Orange County Building
20 Trades, here on behalf of over 140,000 hardworking,
21 skilled, and trained, unionized men and women of the
22 construction workforce in LA and Orange County.

23 We're pleased to see the State has initiated the
24 environmental review process for this modernized Delta
25 conveyance system. Our current system is aged and in

1 desperate need of repair. It's one natural disaster,
2 such as a flood or earthquake, away from putting millions
3 of Californians' ability to access clean water at risk.

4 I know about water. I'm a 41-year member of the
5 plumbers union, so I'm a plumber, and I've worked with
6 water all my life. And I can tell you that to be without
7 water is real dangerous, and we stand that risk here
8 every day in Southern California just from having a weak,
9 aging system up there in the northern part of the state.

10 While we're very proud to be active in projects
11 in LA and Orange County, such as desalination plants,
12 major recycle water systems, and reservoirs, we will
13 always need imported water from Northern California.
14 Maybe less in future years, but we will always need it to
15 supply Northern LA County. We have to get the water from
16 somewhere in order to recycle it.

17 Upgrading our water infrastructure is a bold
18 step toward a more secure water future for California.
19 This will protect and create thousands of local jobs. We
20 urge the State to move forward with this project. Thank
21 you.

22 JANET BARBIERI: Thank you very much.

23 Mr. Portillo?

24 LUIS PORTILLO: Good evening. My name is
25 Luis Portillo. I'm with the Inland Empire Economic

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1 The intended purpose of this tunnel is nothing
2 more than what was originally promised -- assured
3 long-term imported water supply from the north for years
4 and generations to come.

5 We cannot continue kicking the can down the
6 road. Both conveyance and ecosystems are in serious need
7 of repair. Failure to address each of these will leave
8 fundamental problems unsolved and the environment on the
9 verge of collapse. This decision is a generational one
10 that will literally change our landscapes, hopes, and
11 economic futures for the Californians.

12 On behalf of the El Monte/South El Monte Chamber
13 of Commerce, I truly support moving forward with
14 Governor Newsom's Administration's work on the planning
15 process of the 6,000 cfs single-tunnel Delta Conveyance
16 Project. Thank you.

17 JANET BARBIERI: Thank you.

18 I'm just going to call up the next three
19 speakers -- Steve Arakawa, Dan Drugan, and Clara Karger.
20 Go ahead.

21 KENDAL ASUNCION: Good evening. My name is
22 Kendal Asuncion, and I represent the Los Angeles Area
23 Chamber of Commerce. On its behalf, I'd like to express
24 our support for a Delta conveyance tunnel.

25 The chamber has a long history of supporting

1 water projects that ensure water reliability and leverage
2 our past investments in water infrastructure. As the
3 Department of Water Resource knows, water is an integral
4 resource to everyone in this room and beyond. Water
5 reliability and affordability enables Southern California
6 to thrive and supports all of the California economy.

7 The State Water Project is an indispensable part
8 of Southern California's \$1.6 trillion economy. A water
9 shortage caused by a disruption in water deliveries would
10 have severe economic repercussions in Los Angeles and the
11 Southern California Region that would ripple throughout
12 the state.

13 This project is an insurance policy to protect
14 our economy and nearly a million jobs statewide while
15 balancing the needs of the Bay Delta. Moreover, many of
16 our regional efforts to develop and improve local water
17 supply, like waste water recycling, groundwater banking,
18 and desalination, rely on imported water.

19 The Delta Conveyance Project also underpins
20 the Governor's recently released draft Water Resilience
21 Portfolio. We support strong leadership and
22 modernization of the State Water Project and appreciate
23 the government's -- governor's support for the project
24 beginning with the environmental review process.

25 And we support solutions of sufficient carrying

1 capacity that involve -- that improves water security,
2 protects against natural disasters, and keeps water
3 affordable for residents and their businesses. Thank
4 you.

5 JANET BARBIERI: Thank you.

6 STEVE ARAKAWA: Good evening. My name is
7 Steve Arakawa, and I'm the manager over Bay Delta
8 activities for the Metropolitan Water District of
9 Southern California.

10 Thank you for coming to Southern California and
11 hearing from a variety of the interests in our area.
12 Metropolitan will be providing more-detailed input in our
13 written comments to the Department of Water Resources,
14 but we appreciate the opportunity to be here tonight.

15 Metropolitan has consistently identified a need
16 for dealing with Delta conveyance in its integrated water
17 resources planning, its water supply strategy, that would
18 modernize California's ageing infrastructure, allowing
19 water to more reliably move through the Delta and help
20 manage our water supply through the climate extremes.

21 Tonight we're here to express our appreciation
22 for Governor Newsom's support for a one-tunnel project --
23 Governor Newsom being the third executive governor to be
24 committed to address the water delivery system in some
25 manner -- and I want to touch on three points.

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
DELTA CONVEYANCE PROJECT CEQA PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING

320 WEST FOURTH STREET, LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2020

6:00 P.M.

MICHELE WAGNER

COURT REPORTER

1 APPEARANCES:

2 CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES STAFF:
3 JANET BARBIERI, FACILITATOR
4 CARRIE BUCKMAN, ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAM MANAGER

5 PUBLIC SPEAKERS (IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE):

6 SARAH WILTFONG, BIZFED
7 KEN RAUSH, EL MONTE/SOUTH EL MONTE CHAMBER
8 OF COMMERCE
9 KENDAL ASUNCION, LA AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
10 STEVE ARAKAWA, METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF
11 SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
12 DAN DRUGAN, CALLEGUAS MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT
13 CLARA KARGER, CENTRAL CITY ASSOCIATION
14 RON HASSON, CALIFORNIA STATE CONFERENCE NAACP
15 MICHAEL LEWIS, CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY COALITION
16 ON WATER QUALITY
17 HENRY ROGERS, SBACC
18 KEN COATE, INLAND ACTION
19 DR. MARIO MILCH, KAISER PERMANENTE
20 MARK GREY, BIASC
21 RON MILLER, LA/ORANGE COUNTY BUILDING TRADES
22 LUIS PORTILLO, INLAND EMPIRE ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP
23 ROBERT HUNTER, MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT OF
24 ORANGE COUNTY
25 BRANDON DAWSON, SIERRA CLUB
VICKI KIRSCHENBAUM, SUSTAINABLE BURBANK
COMMISSION
MARCI STANAGE, SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA PARTNERSHIP
FOR JOBS
DEREK RYDER, SIERRA CLUB LA
BRUCE CAMPBELL
CHARLEY WILSON, SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA WATER
COALITION
CATHLEEN PIERONI, INLAND EMPIRE WATER AGENCY
CONNER EVERTS, ENVIRONMENTAL WATER CAUCUS