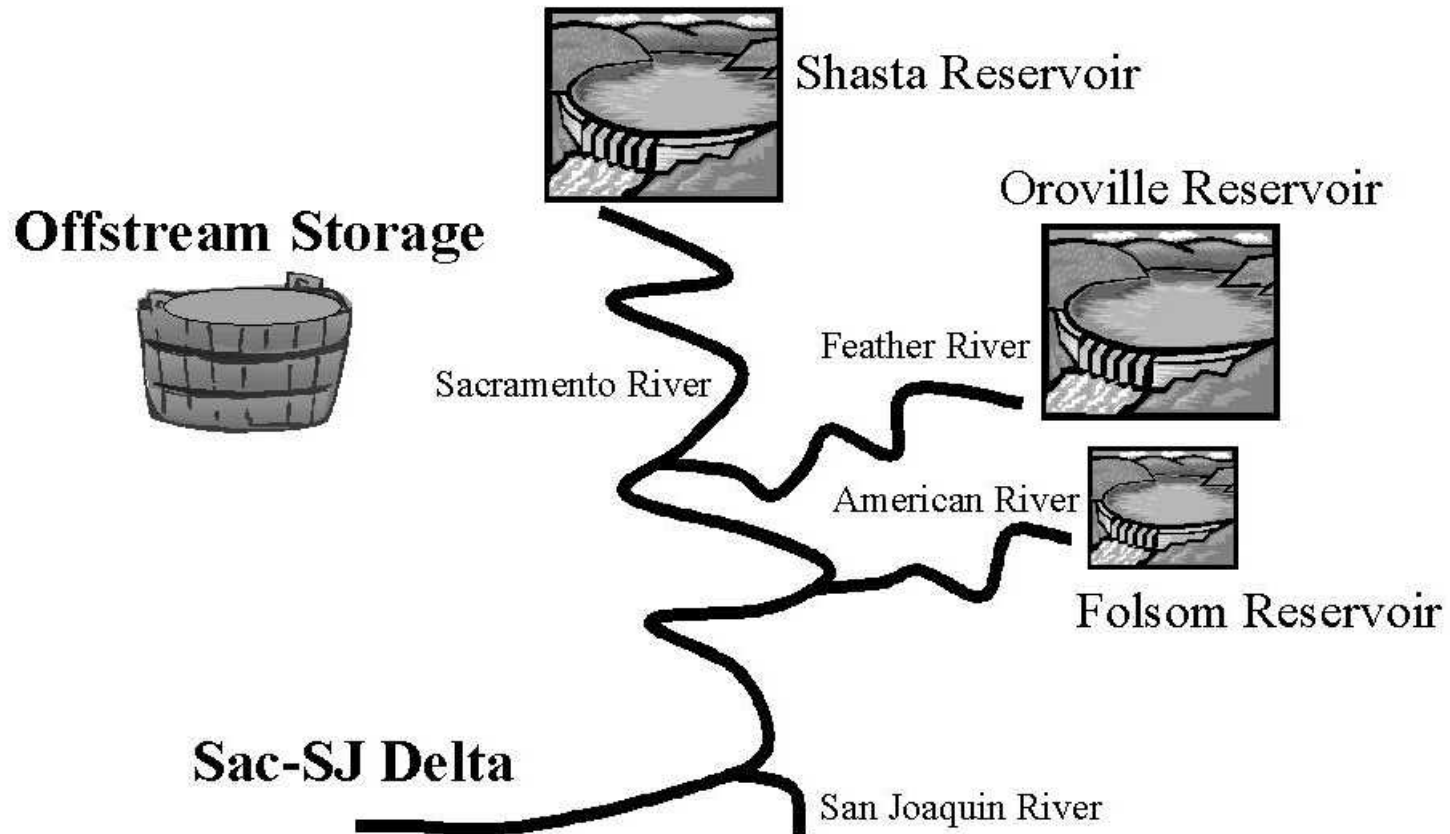
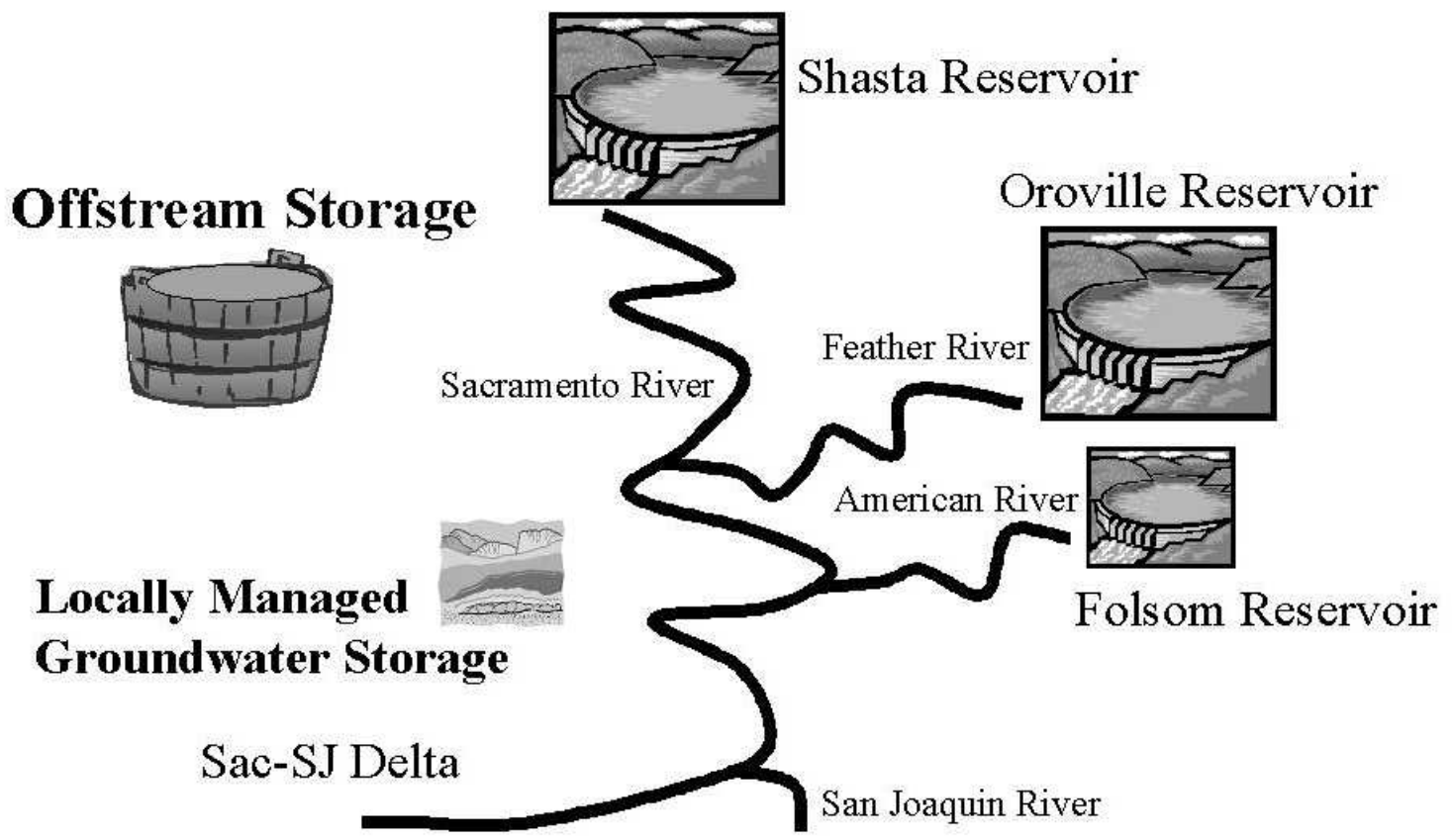


Benefits for Other CALFED Programs



Water Management Flexibility



A Balanced Solution

North of the Delta Offstream Storage could provide additional system flexibility to balance:

- Ecosystem benefits
- Environmental water use
- Agricultural water use
- Municipal water use
- Industrial water use

North of the Delta Offstream Storage ROD Milestones

- ❏ Step 1: Create partnership with local water interests
- ❏ Step 2: Complete environmental review and planning documentation by August 2004

👣 Step 1: MOU Partnership - 11/00

- Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District
- Tehama-Colusa Canal Authority
- Orland Unit Water User's Association
- County of Colusa
- Sutter Mutual Water Company
- Reclamation District No. 108
- Princeton-Codora-Glenn Irrigation District
- Provident Irrigation District
- Natomas Mutual Water Company
- Maxwell Irrigation District
- Yolo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District
- United States Bureau of Reclamation, Mid-Pacific Region
- United States Fish and Wildlife Service
- Western Area Power Administration
- California Department of Fish and Game
- California Department of Water Resources

Step 2: Environmental Documentation

- Prepare site-specific EIS/EIR
- Tiered from CALFED Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Notice of Preparation / Notice of Intent

- Prepared for North of the Delta Offstream Storage
- NOP - filed with State Clearinghouse 11/5/01
- NOI – published in Federal Register 11/9/01

Possible Project Alternatives

- No Project (Present Condition)
- No Action (Future Condition)
- Sites Reservoir Alternative
- Newville Reservoir Alternative
- Other Possible Alternatives
 - Conjunctive Use
 - Enlarging Shasta
 - Other alternatives developed from scoping

Scoping Meetings



Three separate geographical meetings

- Sacramento
- Maxwell
- Fresno

Public Involvement Opportunities

- Attend Scoping meetings
- Submit comments by January 25, 2002
 - Alternatives and possible effects
 - Additional alternatives and possible effects
- Continuing outreach

Input/Feedback

- Your input is essential!
- Point of contact: **Scott Woodland**
 - Phone: (916) 651-9278
 - Fax: (916) 651-9289
 - Email: woodland@water.ca.gov
 - Mailing address: P.O. Box 942836
Sacramento, CA 94236

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**Appendix F: Transcript of Public
Scoping Meeting - Sacramento,
California, January 8, 2002**

Scoping Meeting
North-of-the-Delta
Offstream Storage

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TUESDAY, JANUARY 8, 2002

1:00 P.M.

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BE IT REMEMBERED, that on Tuesday, January 8, 2002, commencing at the hour of 1:00, P.M. at Bonderson Building Hearing Room, 901 P Street Sacramento, California, before me, CINDY M. BILLALON, a Certified Shorthand Reporter in and for the county of Sacramento, state of California, the following proceedings were taken down by me:

---oOo---

MS. BUCHHOLZ: We are here for the scoping meeting, the first meeting this year for North-of-the-Delta Offstream Storage. My name is Gwen Buchholz; I'm your facilitator today; my job is crowd control for if you guys get unruly or something. What I'd like to do is just introduce some people here today.

I'd like to introduce up here we have representative Donna Garcia. A representative of the Department of Water Resources, Sean Sou, B.G. Heiland, Steve Roberts and then Scott Woodland, whose name is in our NOP and NOI and we'll talk about all of that a little later in the day. I'd like to introduce Assemblyman Dick Dickerson who is the first to start our program off today.

ASSEMBLYMAN DICKERSON: Let me open by saying I'm extremely pleased to be here. This is a process that I think has been slow to work up to, but we're getting there and this is a very important step in the process and I want to thank you all for coming. And I want to welcome you to this extremely important scoping meeting on offstream storage North-of-the-Delta.

As you know, California with the population nearing 35 million has not had significant infrastructuring changes in its water system for nearly 40 years. At the urging of the Legislature, the Governor and the Secretary of the Bureau, the CALFED Record of Decision included integrated storage investigations to consider ground water and surface alternatives. The Department of Water Resources in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation has for several years been conducting preliminary investigations into the possibility of increasing our surface ground water and surface storage capacity to help solve the water needs for agriculture, the Delta, the ecosystem and domestic water use for our growing population. Today they are asking for your views on the issues, benefits and future impacts with or without storage that they should consider as they proceed with the plan. Formal planning now begins and your feedback today will be a key to future decision.

Well, again, I am pleased to be here. I hope you're pleased to be here and I know the department is looking forward with eager anticipation to your comments and your input as we all work together to solve a very serious problem in the state of California. So thank you ladies and gentlemen for your interest in being here today and keep up your commitment and I think we'll get through this sooner or later. Thank you very much.

MS. BUCHHOLZ: Thank you, Assemblyman Dickerson. We also have with us today Assemblyman Aanestad and I would like to have him make a few comments too.

ASSEMBLYMAN AANESTAD: Well, just very briefly I just want to tell you that the project has the support of our office as a much needed and much delayed resource for Northern California. What was striking to me in looking at the history of all of this was that it was nearly nine years ago when the idea of a Sites Reservoir was first proposed and it's taken nine years to get to the point where we're now in a formal environmental review process. Why it's taken that long I don't know the answer to that, but I do know that it's taken too long because in that period of time this state has grown by almost 10 million people and the demand for water in this state is going to increase with time as we proceed on and on and we cannot go on in the fashion of we're just looking forward, but we're doing nothing about it.

What's heartening about this meeting is it's really a kick off to doing something about the environmental review process that we have in California and I know that the year 2004 is supposed to be the year when the process ends and we actually get down to building the new water storage in the state of California. Sites is probably the one that is most ready to go, but it's not the only one that's needed and I'm hoping that during this process there's going to be some mention of other offstream or even onstream sites for water storage for Northern California.

Assemblyman Dickerson gave you all the reasons why we need more instreams in water storage as far as agricultural, as far as the fisheries, as far as the environment problems and the growing need by the population in the urban and developing areas, but suffice it to say we've waited long enough and that's why I'm happy to see you folks here and beginning this process that is long overdue. Certainly my office stands in support in any way possible that we can help with making this more expedient and trying to solve any problems that might come along. Good luck in this meeting today and please contact my office if you have any questions or suggestions for how we can expedite this process. Thank you.

MS. BUCHHOLZ: Thank you, Assemblyman Aanestad.

We want to go over a little bit about the purpose of this meeting today and the outline of today's agenda. And the purpose of this meeting is to notify all of you and interested parties about the intent as ascribed in the Notice of Intent and the Notice of Preparation; that was public and we actually have copies of these here for anybody who is interested and did not get those when they were in the publications.

This is for North-of-the-Delta – of North-of-the-Delta Offstream Storage; it is a joint project between the Department of Water Resources and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. One of the purposes of this meeting is to develop and identify ideas for alternatives so as we proceed into the environmental impact report, environmental impact statement that the ranges of alternatives that are identified at this time can be incorporated into the considerations as those documentations [documents] are prepared.

Another purpose of this meeting is to identify issues that need to be evaluated and questions that need to be answered through the environmental documentation for the purpose of the project. And finally, the purpose of the meeting is to obtain information. We hope that all of you have signed in on the mailing list so we can continue to keep you informed as this process continues. We also -- I want to point out that we have comment cards here and that if you have comments and written comments today you can submit them on these cards or you can submit them in writing at the end of the comment period, which is January 25th.

What we're going to do is Sean Sou is going to present a very short summary of some of the things that are being covered, specifically NOP, Notice of preparation and NOI, Notice of Intent. And then we would like to hold questions so we can capture your comments and questions as part of our scoping process, all of the comments and questions. We have three scoping meetings, today here in Sacramento, tomorrow in Maxwell and the next one in Fresno. We will be taking all of those comments plus the written comments we receive and putting them together in a scoping report; the scoping report will discuss those comments and it will also include copies of the transcript that we are transcribing today.

So, again, if you could hold your comments so we can capture them appropriately and they can be utilized in our documentation, that would be the most appropriate thing. So at this time, Sean, would you proceed with the presentation?

MR. SOU: Thank you. Thank you, Gwen. And good afternoon everyone.

Okay. I'd like to introduce North-of-the-Delta Offstream Storage. In order to introduce the North-of-the-Delta Offstream Storage, I'm going to describe the North-of-the-Delta offstream storage, the Sacramento region and Sacramento River, the CALFED program, the proposed North-of-the-Delta offstream storage and the flexibility provided by such a storage, the Planning Partnership for North-of-the-Delta offstream storage and the environmental

documentation processes. And finally opportunities for you the public and agencies' participation.

The water resources of the Sacramento River region support 2.2 million people and associated industries, over two million acres of farmland, 200,000 acres of marsh and agricultural land for water 60 percent of the total duck and goose population in the Pacific flyway and flows for riverine habitat and the total water needs are projected to increase in the future, that's the bottom line. The Sacramento River region as shown in this picture here covers an area basically of the entire Sacramento River drainage area. It extends 300 miles from the Oregon border in the north to the south of the Delta area. At the same time the Sacramento River and its tributaries make up the largest and most important riverine ecosystem in California; these factors combined have brought us a number of challenges facing the region, particularly the Sacramento River region. And these factors include water users are subject to shortages in both average and drought years. A number of species depending on the riverine ecosystem are being designated as threatened and/or endangered species.

The Sacramento River provides 80 percent of the Delta inflow and the inflow is supporting the Delta ecosystem as well as Delta diversions. These often competing demands on this limited water resource has brought us to the point where operation and management of the system are becoming increasingly inflexible due to several reasons: Due to increase of water use within the region, due to Delta diversions and exports and increase of recognition of environmental needs. Meanwhile, in May 1995 CALFED began to develop a long-term comprehensive plan to restore ecological health and improve water management of the Bay Delta system. The CALFED program effort included representatives of agricultural, urban, environmental, business interests and tribal interests and other local interests. And the CALFED program effort is coordinated with emphasis on regional solutions. In the summer of 2000 CALFED published a programmatic EIS and EIR and a Record of Decision with an action specific long-term plan. The CALFED solution area covers six regions including the Sacramento River region, our area of interest. CALFED also developed four program objectives and the objectives are: To improve water supply reliability; to improve ecosystem quality; to improve water quality for beneficial uses and to reduce risks associated with catastrophic breaching of Delta levees.

To achieve these objectives, CALFED included eight problem elements as shown here (indicating). Our focus is the storage component, although many of the other elements will be effected by North-of-the-Delta offstream storage. In the CALFED Report of Decision CALFED concluded that storage can help to achieve CALFED objectives, more specifically that storage is critical to the successful implementation of all aspects of the CALFED program and that storage provides much needed system flexibility. The Record of Decision identifies Sites Reservoir in North-of-the-Delta as one of five surface storage projects statewide for continued evaluation. And in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act, the California Environmental Water Quality, and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act the North-of-the-Delta Offstream Storage will evaluate Sites Reservoir and a reasonable range of alternatives.

Concurrent with the North-of-the-Delta Offstream Storage, these are some of the ongoing projects in the Sacramento Valley, including Sacramento Valley Water Management Agreement (Phase 8 Settlement Agreement.) Sacramento Valley Basinwide Management Plan, CALFED Ecosystem Restoration Program, Sacramento River Conservation Area (SB1086), Sacramento/San Joaquin River Basin Comprehensive Study and other CALFED stage one surface and ground water actions.

Included in the Record of Decision are specific objectives for a North-of-the-Delta offstream storage; those objectives include enhance water management flexibility in the Sacramento Valley, reduce water diversions from the Sacramento River during critical fish migration periods, increase reliability of supply for a major portion of Sacramento Valley, and to provide storage and operational benefits for other CALFED programs including Delta Water Quality and the Environmental Water Account.

In order to better understand how North-of-the-Delta Offstream Storage would effect the current system and how North-of-the-Delta Offstream Storage objectives will be accomplished, it is helpful to do a comparison of the existing system with and without North-of-the-Delta Offstream Storage. This here is a simplified graphic showing the existing system with a number of important water resource facilities, including Shasta Reservoir, Oroville Reservoir and Folsom Reservoir plus the Sacramento/San Joaquin Delta area. In the next slides we will focus in on this Northern Sacramento Valley area.

This is a slide showing the current situation without an offstream storage project in the wintertime and focusing on the two major Sacramento River users. The Tehama-Colusa and Glenn-Colusa irrigation District canal. In the wintertime when flows in the river are relatively high as depicted by this thicker line representing the river, (indicating). Diversions into the canals are relatively low as indicated by the thinner lines representing the canals. Again, the operation without an offstream storage in the summertime now there's a large agricultural demand in these two water service areas and so diversion into canals are relatively high while the flow in the river is relatively low.

Now with an offstream storage during the wintertime, when the flows in the river are relatively high, we can divert water into an offstream storage from either the Sacramento River and/or its tributaries. This bucket here represents any type of storage (indicating). Now the operation with an offstream storage during the summertime when the demands are high in the service area with water storage in an offstream storage, we have an alternative source of water for these users. With water stored in an offstream storage, we can provide water to these two canals from an offstream storage. Also with an offstream storage we can improve the water supply reliability for these water users and at the same time reduce diversions from the Sacramento River during critical fish migration periods.

Now let's look back at the larger system with an offstream storage. Preliminary operation studies indicate that with an offstream storage the current operation with an offstream storage can provide much needed system flexibility. And in fact with an offstream storage if water can be provided from offstream, we can improve the storage in Shasta Reservoir, Oroville Reservoir, as well as Folsom Reservoir. Also with water stored in offstream storage during the winter, the North-of-the-Delta Offstream Storage Program will improve locally managed ground water storage as well. And also with an offstream storage we can improve benefits for other CALFED programs, including Delta Water Quality and the Environmental Water Account.

In summary, the North-of-the-Delta Offstream Storage Program will provide an opportunity for a balance solution with ecosystem benefits, environmental water use, agricultural water use, municipal water use and industrial water use.

The Record of Decision identified major steps or milestones associated with the North of Delta Offstream Storage. Step one is create local Planning Partnership with water entities. And step two is to complete the environmental review and planning documentation by August 2004.

For the first step we have a Memorandum of Understanding with local partnerships initially signed in November of 2000 and subsequently other local water entities have signed to this Memorandum of Understanding. Currently we have 11 local water signatories to MOU and five CALFED agencies, including three federal agencies and two state agencies. The two federal agencies include the Bureau of Reclamation, which is a federal lead agency for complying with the National Environmental Policy Act and the state agencies include the Department of Water Resources, which is a state lead agency for complying with the California Environmental Quality Act.

For step two the Department of Water Resources and the Bureau of Reclamation and Planning Partnership plan to prepare a site specific EIS which will be based on the CALFED final programmatic EIS/EIR. One other major planning effort being concurrently developed is the engineering feasibility studies. The Notice of Preparation, Notice of Intent are the first

formal processes in this environmental documentation process for the North of Delta Offstream Storage Program. A NOP was filed with the State Clearinghouse November of 2001 and Notice of Intent was published in the Federal Register in November of 2001 as well. Included in the Notice of Preparation and Notice of Intent are a list of possible project alternatives included in the project's present condition: No action, future condition, a Sites Reservoir alternative, the Newville Reservoir alternative, other possible alternatives at this time include enlarging Shasta and other alternatives developed from the scoping process.

As part of the scoping process this is where your comments can be most helpful to us. Specifically we're asking are there other additional North-of-the-Delta alternatives that we should be considering in our evaluation? Are there other possible effects associated with the alternatives that we should be considering in our evaluation? So we'll be asking for those comments later on.

The next phase of this formal environmental process is the scoping meetings. The purpose of scoping meetings is to allow or provide the public and agencies an opportunity to provide comments on the possible alternatives and their effects on the project. The three geographic scopes we have scheduled including the one here today in Sacramento and the other two are in Maxwell and Fresno. After the scoping meeting and the scoping period ends we will be preparing a written report to summarize the comments and alternatives to be carried forward; at that time the Department and the Planning Partnership will begin writing the EIR and EIS. So please send your comments to us by January 25th and comment on the alternatives that we have outlined earlier plus any additional alternatives you might want us to consider. There will be opportunities for public involvement, regular opportunities at meetings during the documentation process for the North of Delta Offstream Storage project.

Finally, by attending the scoping meeting you can send your comments either at the scoping meetings or to our staff. Scott Woodland, who is in the back of the room here, will be the person to receive your comments; his business cards are in the back of the room if you want to pick one up. We ask you to send comments through either fax or mail, through the mail, regular mail. Okay. Thank you.

I'll hand it back to Gwen.

MS. BUCHHOLZ: Thank you, Sean.

That concludes the presentation part of our meeting today and today we'd like to open it up for comments; however, we are asking that for all of the people who want to speak that you fill out a speaker's card and Jim Wieking will be picking those up; you guys can put them up in the air. I'm hoping there's some comments here. We are also asking that you come up to the podium so that we can help record it better. We also are recording it through a stenographer today so we're asking you to please present your name and your affiliation, speak clearly and slowly so she can pick it up, although I'm sure she's very good. We will be putting them up on the board and recording them electronically too through a process and we will try to capture what you're presenting and your comments.

And as I said, again, all of the comments that we receive we will be including in our final scoping report. So at this time I have one speaker's card. Are there any other speaker's cards? Okay. If we can start with this, if we can go to -- I'm putting them here in the order I've got them. Charles Casey from Friends of the River.

MR. CASEY: Thank you very much.

I'll make my comments fairly brief because we'll be submitting by the due date some written comments which are obviously a little easier to work with.

But the main thing Friends of the River, which is a statewide river conservation group, is concerned about is the impacts related to the diversions necessary to fill this offstream storage. We are certainly happy that the Department of Water Conservation and Bureau of

Reclamation are considering sites that will not impact directly a beautiful river canyon -- which is historically one of the traditions of damming projects -- but nonetheless, offstream storage still poses some potentially great impacts that has to do mainly with the diversions from the Sacramento River. It has been estimated that 5,000 cubic feet per second would be needed to divert to the Site storage project at the Sacramento River system. We don't need to remind folks that the ecosystem remains relatively healthy here as opposed to the San Joaquin where up to 80 percent of the river is already diverted. The Sacramento River, according to CALFED diagnoses, diversions have reduced history flows by approximately 35 percent. We're concerned that the additional diversions for Sites could certainly exacerbate that type -- those type of impacts. And don't forget the consequence of this certainly is the Sacramento River still sustains all five native runs of salmon and steelhead, although several of these runs are in decline and threatened; it also supports a habitat utilized by sensitive threatened terrestrial species. So, again, diversion and impacts to the Sacramento River could create some real problems and those type of impacts need to be addressed and accounted for both as a cumulative result of diversions and also in terms of just diversions themselves. We were concerned where the water is going and what it would be used for, who needs it and I think the alternatives that certainly need to be considered are the amount of money to be spent for Sites Reservoir versus how that money might well be spent for conservation and efficiency and perhaps offset the yields expected from the site. So certainly the yields expected from Sites are very critical, but how can you also utilize those water yields in other ways, the amount of money expenditures necessary for construction of this company perhaps would be directed something more water friendly and something that is reasonable for water yield. So that's my brief comments. We certainly have very serious concerns about the diversions and about the lack of good alternatives and we would like to see that detailed further; as you go forward we'll be making much more detailed comments by your due date. Thank you very much.

MS. BUCHHOLZ: Mr. John Mills, the Regional Counsel of Rural Counties.

MR. MILLS: Thank you. I want to thank Assemblyman Dickerson for hosting this meeting. I appreciate the opportunity to give you some input on scoping on this documentation. My clients which are 29 of the 50 state counties located in the north part of the state is easily described as the counties with the water and without the people; I would like to keep it that way. Generally speaking, I would like to address my comments about impacts in the context of both local and regional. And by that I mean that we not just talk about Sites, but specifically regional impacts.

By regional I would argue that they include both Sacramento watershed and the Delta and if we step back and look at some of the holes in the CALFED programs, which are currently the subject of litigation by my clients, I think you may want to patch those holes before you sail ahead in such a leaky vessel. First I would ask specifically how would the reservoir be owned and managed, specifically by what parties and through what specific mechanisms? This needs to be made clear in the beginning and not an amorphous group who may or may not come in and out of membership. Second what about the size, location and operational characterization, if any, of diversion facilities? These need to be very specific and not general and I agree with the notion of scaling the backside of the hydrograph in the Sacramento River in wet years and parking for use in dry years. And generally speaking our organization supports new we have seen far too many proposals for facilities that weren't well thought out and the management assurances were not well defined and what ended up being located in our counties were very wet deserts and by that I mean large bodies of water in which people who live in the area have no access to unless they want to go fishing; God help them if they take a bucket of water home to use it.

Next I would ask that we identify early in this process through the environmental document if there are local -- by that I mean within the county or counties which the project is located -- specific benefits derived through affordable, reliable water supplies. Specific answers to each are necessary, not generalities. I also want to point out that most of these areas are agricultural in nature and water which becomes too expensive precludes local idealizations.

I would like to have the document clearly identify what linkage there is directly or indirectly to water exports in the bay Delta and/or the CALFED water acquisition programs which EWA is interested. And the idea that Sites would be helpful to EWA I find inconsistent with CALFED'S own document Environmental Water Account program which was set in four years from its implementation, Sites wouldn't even be built by then. I think we need to identify which is going to subsidize the EWA or not. We also need to make it clear what the EWA is, it's a backfilling of water supplies or environment which is not functional in the Environmental Water Account. I would like to understand very clearly on behalf of my client's what entity would own the land necessary for the facility; I don't mean what's under water and those surrounding lands, what specific mechanism would take more local physical impacts.

One of the partnerships on your screen is Colusa County and I want to point out at one point the federal government was in the rears in failing to pay their in use tax fees of over \$800,000. So one of the things that Congress is not for is appropriating land to acquire things and then failing to appropriate the money to pay the fees. If we're going to obtain any other land in the Sacramento area it would be nice if state and federal governments would be current on their taxes as we ask all of our other citizens to be. What relationship, if any, is going to exist between the water resources which are necessary for this facility and those which are needed desperately now for the Trinity River Restoration Program Division? We cannot use the same water in different watersheds twice and there's water right now in the Sacramento River which rightfully belongs in the Trinity Basin and it's not being delivered there and we're going to count on additional water coming out of this stream; we want to make sure it's not the same water at some point we're going to need back in the Trinity Basin.

We also need to make sure of the relationship, if any, between the water resources necessary for this facility and those water resources that are needed for previously authorized federal surface storage projects; absent funding those projects are in some cases nearly ready to go. I would ask that we make clear on the document what the applicability is in this facility in this operation to California existing statutes, watershed origin, area of origin and protected areas. These are questions which would in any event have to be answered for the State Water Resources Control Board; we need to make it very clear. I will be submitting all this in writing as well for the record.

What the new flexibility generated by this new offstream storage would be to other reservoirs and in that benefit the flexibilities because I agree that the California water system desperately needs increased flexibility; my concern is what parties would specifically accrue the benefits achieved by that new flexibility. Many of these facilities, in fact all of these facilities you mentioned, located within my client's membership area and we would be interested to know if the water in the new facility was going to be used there or in the LA Basin. We would like to know specifically what the potential Bay Delta Water Quality impacts will be as a result of these diversions or will there be benefits? If there are benefits -- and I believe there could be under the right circumstances -- for a new facility that would be wonderful, but we need to classify that, but we need to do benefits in the context of what CALFED says they're going to do in stage one, which is ratchet exports out of the Delta by increased pumping. Are we going to have better quality water in stage one in CALFED with this new facility or will we be where we are now or less?

So, see, what I'm saying is we need to balance the equation on both sides. If in fact there are going to be impacts then we need to identify clearly now the water impacts in the Delta that have resulted in increased exports in anything, new storage facilities that would be mitigated and specifically which parties would be liable for those impacts. I realize the state board is still wrestling with this in phase eight, believe me, this is ground zero for phase eight. This is the Sacramento Valley so we can't put this off. Again, I am submitting this in writing; I want to thank you again for the opportunity scoping. We look forward to seeing this in the draft document. Thank you.

MS. BUCHHOLZ: Paul Olmstead from Sacramento Municipal Utilities District.

MR. OLMSTEAD: Thank you. I want to state first of all that this process is finally going forward to support the process as its coming forward. I'd also like to support Mr. Mills' previous comments; I'm going to focus my comments away from what he has previously stated. SMUD is here representing not only the CVP power customers, in other words, people who are beneficial of industrial power and also pays pump. The one thing that wasn't mentioned today in today's comments is the purpose and need for this project; the purpose and need is not well defined. We have yet to see a defined purpose and need specifically for the Sites project and the larger context of the North Sacramento offstream storage facilities. We would like to see some agreement on where we're proceeding with this stuff. This documentation goes so far down the row we can't compute. Stakeholders get a chance to view the purpose and need before this documentation goes out on the street. We support the need for new storage -- there is a need for storage, no question about it -- we'd particularly like to support the Shasta enlargement, from our standpoint that's best. We would also support the Sites Reservoir with one exception, that as well as the people who will benefit from the project bring power to the table so the pumping needs, that is the power they use to pump the water out of the river into the reservoir, is brought on the table and paid for by the beneficiaries. We don't think CVP power users should pick up the tab for that part of the project. I'd like to make that point very clear.

We are also concerned if Sites will okay integrated features. Integrated features of the Central Valley project, that so far is undefined. We would like to assure that that is discussed in detail with any cost benefit ratios associated with that so we can compare it with the other features of the Central Valley program. Specifically in regard to cost benefit ratio we would like to see something that shows the costs and benefits of Sites in relation to the other alternatives such as Shasta enlargement and independently compare it one-on-one so we can look at each one independently and make some separate evaluations for capacity benefit perspective and the decision making process by which this is going to go through is kind of somewhat undefined.

In looking back at the Record of Decision, I believe it stated something like there's going to be environmental evaluation on both the sides at issue to other facilities, other alternatives before it went through the official CALFED budget process. Sites is so far ahead of the game than everyone else we want to make sure this process is well defined so people understand that everything is prepared equally before the final decision is made. I'm going to focus my decisions at that point. We agree there's a need for operational flexibility in this system. We've got to make sure whatever decision is made both water using, power using, agricultural and municipal parties are kept whole from the entire power. And ending with in keeping with the comment of Mr. Mills when he spoke of the future, address the linkage as far as this effects every other party, potential effecting party stakeholder in the Central Valley. The most important part to the state here is we believe there should be no redirected impacts in CALFED'S philosophy, from this point on that the impacts are to be borne by these people who are beneficiaries of that project.

We would like to end with that. I will be sending some detailed comments by the 25th. Thank you.

MS. BUCHHOLZ: Mr. Jeff Phipps. State your affiliation, please.

MR. PHIPPS: Good afternoon. I'm an independent consultant working generally on behalf of CVP Power Community. Three or four comments more generic to the process. I think some of the comments that Paul and John made specifically apply as well, but more generic is the EIS process. The presentation today was rather vague on when our opportunities for comments would be solicited; when we would have a chance to provide those comments. We need more specifics. At this point I don't know if I'm going to be able to comment before we have a final draft document or at what detail. We would very much like to have impact on the purpose need statement, the Notice Action, what's included in the Notice Action, the alternative evaluation, the level of detail, et cetera. So we need a more specific outline of the opportunities for comment on the process. Second thing is the no action, very critical baseline by which we compare. John brought up Trinity. There's the

south of the Delta storage, there's the in Delta storage facilities. How is the system? How valuable is this project? Is it dependant on the baseline that you compare against? So we need to have a significant discussion of what's included and what's not included in the No Action. The third thing has to do with CALFED solution principles. It wasn't mentioned, but it's a very important concept that has been promoted and included in the Order of Decision so each alternative in its evaluation should be compared specifically on how it's going to respond and achieve the CALFED solution principles. Specifically the ones that my community is most interested in is no reflected impacts as Paul mentioned, also beneficiary pay, concepts of solutions. Beneficiaries of this project will be able to respond appropriately to fund this type of project. I look forward to the discussion. Thank you.

MS. BUCHHOLZ: Are there any more speakers that would like to speak today with comments? We have no more cards at this time. With that we thank you for attending. We will, again, encourage you if you didn't get the chance when you came to sign up because that will become part of our mailing list and we will be putting the scoping report together; that will be available for those who signed up. Thank you.

(Proceedings were concluded at 1:48 p.m.)

REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO

I, CINDY M. BILLALON, a Certified Shorthand Reporter, licensed by the state of California and empowered to administer oaths and affirmations pursuant to Section 2093 (b) of the Code of Civil Procedure, do hereby certify:

That the said proceedings were recorded stenographically by me and were thereafter transcribed under my direction via computer-assisted transcription; That the foregoing transcript is a true record of the proceedings which then and there took place; That I am a disinterested person to said action.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have subscribed my name on February 4, 2002.

CINDY M. BILLALON

**Appendix G: Transcript of Public
Scoping Meeting - Maxwell,
California, January 9, 2002**

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT/STATEMENT
NORTH-OF-THE-DELTA OFFSTREAM STORAGE
MAXWELL INN
81 OAK STREET MAXWELL, CALIFORNIA

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 9, 2002

6:00 P.M.

PROCEEDINGS

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FACILITATOR BUCHHOLZ: We're going to be starting now, and I hope that everybody has had an opportunity to sign in on the sheets back there, and if you haven't, please take the opportunity throughout this process, or at the end of the process, because that becomes our mailing list for getting your responses to this meeting, and also for the future mailings for any other meetings we have as the project goes on.

My name is Gwen Buchholz, and I'm your Facilitator tonight. My job is to basically keep up in an orderly fashion so that we can obtain comments and work through this.

This meeting tonight is for the North-of-the-Delta Offstream Storage program. We're starting the environmental documentation process for this project right now, in which to prepare -- and is to notify you of our intent to prepare the Department of Water Resources and the Bureau of Reclamation, to prepare the Environmental Impact Report, and an Environmental Impact Statement.

The purpose of tonight's meeting is to obtain comments on the alternatives that we want -- that you all want us to look at in this process, and issues that need to be looked at in detail to do an appropriate evaluation of those alternatives in this process. What we're going to be doing tonight is that we will have some opening remarks, and then we'll be having a short presentation about the information that was put together, and we'll talk about that before we get there. And then -- and that will take a very little time -- and then the main reason that we're here tonight is to listen to you and to obtain comments from all of you so that we can put these in the record, and they can become part of our process, because we want to take direction as we get it from the stakeholders and the interested public as we go through this.

I'd like to introduce a few people at the beginning of this process. On the -- up here tonight, we have Van Tenney, from Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District; Art Bullock, from the Tehama-Colusa Canal Authority. We have Sean Sou, from Department of Water Resources; Donna Garcia, from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation; and B.G. Heiland, from the Department of Water Resources. We also have Steve Roberts, from Department of Water Resources; Naser Bateni, from Department of Water

Resources; and Scott Woodland, who you will see names on, to get all of the comments. He will be collecting the comments for the environmental documentation.

At this time, though, I'd like to have Assemblyman Dickerson give us a welcome, and to introduce our -- well, today.

ASSEMBLYMAN DICKERSON: Thank you.

Good evening. I want to welcome all of you to this very important scoping meeting on Offstream Storage North-of-the-Delta.

California, with a population that's nearing 35 million, has had no significant infrastructure changes in its water system for nearly 40 years. At the urging of the Legislature, the Governor, and the Secretary of the Interior, the CALFED record of decision included integrated storage investigations to consider groundwater and surface water alternatives. The Department of Water Resources, in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, has for several years been conducting preliminary investigations into the possibility of increasing our state groundwater and surface storage capacity to help solve water needs for agriculture, the Delta ecosystem, and the domestic water for our growing population.

Today, they are asking for your views on the issues, benefits, and the future impacts with or without offstream storage. This is information that we would hope they would consider as they proceed with the planning. Formal planning now begins, and your feedback tonight

will be key to those future decisions. I compliment all of you on showing your interest by being here tonight, and urge that the agencies repeat this local input process every step of the way. This should not be, and I know it will not be, the only scoping meeting that they hold, but they need to hold as many as possible to truly get good public input.

Let me introduce a few elected officials who are joining us here tonight. They show their interest and their concern over water, I think, by their presence here tonight.

Forrest Sprague. I think most of you know Forrest, he's currently a Supervisor in Glenn County.

Trish Clarke, Supervisor from Shasta County.

Bill Waite, Supervisor from Colusa County.

Bill Borrer, Supervisor from Tehama County.

Keith Hansell, Glenn County.

Pat Kight, the Mayor of Redding.

Kim Davis is here, representing Senator Johannessen. I know I saw you someplace, there's Kim back there.

Chuck Harris is a former Supervisor of Glenn County. Still here, still interested in this issue. Sheriff Shadinger, from Colusa County, is somewhere, someplace.

FROM THE AUDIENCE: He's hiding out.

(Laughter.)

ASSEMBLYMAN DICKERSON: Hiding out. I think I saw newly -- well, not all that newly -- elected Councilman from Williams, Peter J., over there in the corner.

And, oh, yes, I didn't have you -- how do I always miss you, Doug? I always do that.

Okay. With that, we'll get started with the program. And once again, I want to thank you all for being here. It's extremely important. As always, the turn-out in this room for a Sites Reservoir issue is impressive. It's because you folks care enough to be here, and I, for one, really appreciate that.

So we'll get the business started now. Thank you.

FACILITATOR BUCHHOLZ: Thank you, Assemblyman Dickerson.

We also have one other person participating in our welcome presentations, and David Guy, who represents the northern California interests, if you could --

MR. GUY: Thank you, Gwen. And, like Assemblyman Dickerson, I'd like to thank everybody for coming out here on this evening to participate in this process, this very important process. I want to, before we get started, thank Assemblyman Dickerson for his leadership on water and other issues for the Sacramento Valley, and the other elected officials that are participating in this process. We're very fortunate to have such good representation.

This is a once in a generation opportunity to be evaluating and considering a project like this. I don't think there's any question about it, these things don't come along very often. And this is a particularly unique opportunity, because we have a project here where we're going to have local partners and local participation in a project, and that is different than a lot of the projects around the country that have been done in the past. And this local partnership is going to be incumbent a lot upon your participation, and it's going to be really, I think, what will ultimately decide whether this kind of a project succeeds or fails will

be whether we are successful in empowering the local people to do what they can do best. And there's -- I just can't say enough how exciting, in my view, this local participation is. Obviously, we have several of the local partners here tonight. Hopefully they will be speaking later. Mentioned Van, with Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District, Art with Tehama-Colusa Canal, being the most immediate because, at least the proposal is to at least use their facilities, the Tehama-Colusa Canal Authority and the GCID Main Canal, in part, to wheel the water to a Sites Reservoir. And so they have a very important role in this process. There are other local partners throughout the valley, water suppliers, counties, and many others that are going to be critical to advancing this kind of a project.

As Assemblyman Dickerson mentioned, this is really the beginning. We were here about a year ago, as I recall, in kicking off the MOU that started the ball rolling for this process. There's going to be several more steps. It's a process by which you have to be patient. I know I'm not a very patient person, so I'm not real crazy about it, but that's the process in the world that we live in, and we need to be patient and we need to be diligent in making sure that we have participation like we have tonight every step of the way, as Assemblyman Dickerson mentioned.

Again, a once in a generation opportunity. I couldn't be more excited to be here tonight and see such

great participation from the Sacramento Valley. It's a real honor to be here. Thank you.

FACILITATOR BUCHHOLZ: Thank you, David.

Now we'd like to go into a presentation. And again, I want to remind you that the main reason that we're here today is to obtain your comments, but before we start that process, what we'd like to do is to give a very brief summary presentation that summarizes the information that was put in what's called the Notice of Intent and a Notice of Preparation. And those were published back in November, and they're federal and state documents that are put into the specific registers to allow the public to know that there is an intent to develop an environmental documentation. We have copies of those for anybody that needs them. If we've run out, which may have happened tonight, we will get them to you if you fill out on the comment cards that you would like a copy of those. What I would like to ask your indulgence for is that tonight, if we could just run through the brief presentation first, and hold the comments until afterwards so that we can make sure that we record those comments. And we're going to use the speaker cards, so as you're listening to the presentation, if you would like to make a comment, we need you to fill out the blue speaker cards, and we'll be passing those out. We'll walk through the aisles, and we'll also be collecting those. I think some of them are white, too. And so, but during the presentation, if you could just hold those comments. If you want to just write them down and turn them in later, not make a presentation, that's fine, too.

So, with that, I'd like to have Sean Sou make the presentation.

MR. SOU: Thank you, Gwen, and good evening, everyone. Can everyone hear in the back?

Okay. In order to introduce the North-of-the-Delta Offstream Storage program I'm going to describe the North-of-the-Delta or the Sacramento River region and the Sacramento River -- is that better?

(Inaudible asides.)

MR. SOU: Okay. Is that better? Can everyone hear in the back? Okay. Well, I'll try to speak a little louder. In order to introduce the North-of-the-Delta Offstream Storage program, I'm going to describe the North-of-the-Delta region or the Sacramento River region and the Sacramento River.

FACILITATOR BUCHHOLZ: Maybe we could try this one.

(Inaudible asides.)

MR. SOU: Okay. Is this better? Okay, speaking maybe without a speaker, real loud.

FACILITATOR BUCHHOLZ: I think we've actually --yeah, some people have asked to slow down a little bit, too, since we –

MR. SOU: Okay. All right. In order to introduce North-of-the-Delta Offstream Storage program, I'm going to describe the North-of-the-Delta, or the Sacramento River region, the Sacramento River, the CALFED program, the proposed North-of-the-Delta Offstream Storage program, and the flexibility provided by such an Offstream Storage program, the North-of-the-Delta Offstream Storage Planning Partnership, the environmental documentation, and opportunities for public participation.

The water resources of the Sacramento River region support 2.5 million people and associated industries, over two million acres of farmland, 200,000 acres of marsh and agricultural farmland for waterfowl that's supporting over 60 percent of the total duck and goose population in the Pacific flyway. And, of course, flows for riverine habitat. These regional water needs are projected to increase in the future.

This is a map showing the Sacramento River region. Basically it covers an area from the north, from the Oregon border, to the south in Collinsville, which is about 300 miles, roughly. At the same time, the Sacramento River and its tributaries make up the largest and most important riverine ecosystem in California. These factors combined have brought us a number of challenges facing the region. Those challenges include that water users are subjected to shortages in both average and drought years. A number of species depending on the riverine ecosystem are listed as endangered or threatened species.

The Sacramento River provides roughly about 80 percent of the Delta inflow, which supports the Delta ecosystem and Delta diversions. These often competing demands on this limited resource has brought us to the point where operation and management of the system are becoming increasingly inflexible, due to several things. Due to increase in water use within the region, due to increase in Delta diversions and exports, and due to increase in recognition of environmental water needs.

Meanwhile, in May of 1995, CALFED began to develop a comprehensive, a long-term comprehensive plan to restore ecological health and improve water management of the Bay-Delta system. The CALFED program is a collaborative effort including representatives of the agricultural, urban, environmental, business interests, tribal interests, and other local interests. The CALFED program or effort is coordinated with local leadership and focus on regional solutions.

In the summer of 2000, CALFED published a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement, an Environmental Impact Report, and a Record of Decision with an action specific long-term plan. The CALFED solution covers six region areas, regions, including the Sacramento River region, our area of interest. In the Record of Decision, the CALFED agencies concluded that storage can be used to help achieve the CALFED objectives, and more specifically that storage is essential to the success – is critical to the successful implementation of all aspects of the CALFED program. And that storage can help achieve the program, and that storage can help provide system much needed flexibility.

Also in the Record of Decision. CALFED identified Sites Reservoir, which is one of our North-of-the-Delta Offstream Storage projects, as one of five surface storage projects statewide for continued evaluation. So for North-of-the-Delta Offstream storage, in order to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act, the California Environmental Quality Act, and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, we will look at Sites Reservoir, as well as a reasonable range of alternatives.

Concurrent with the North-of-the-Delta Offstream Storage program, these are some of the other major programs that are ongoing in the Sacramento Valley, and they are including

Sacramento Valley Water Management Agreement, also known as Phase 8 Settlement Agreement; the Sacramento Valley Basinwide Management Plan; the CALFED Ecosystem Restoration Program; Sacramento River Conservation Area, also known as SB 1086; and the Sacramento/San Joaquin River Basins Comprehensive Study, and other CALFED Stage 1 surface and groundwater storage actions.

The Record of Decision also identified specific objectives for a North-of-the-Delta Offstream Storage. Those objectives include enhance water management flexibility in the Sacramento Valley; reduce diversions on the Sacramento River during critical fish migration periods; increase reliability of supplies for a major portion of the Sacramento Valley; and, finally, provide storage and operational benefits for other CALFED programs, such as the Delta Water Quality and the Environmental Water Account.

In order to help us understand how a North-of-the-Delta Offstream Storage would affect the current system, and how North-of-the-Delta Offstream Storage objectives will be accomplished, it is helpful to do a comparison of the system with and without a North-of-the-Delta Offstream Storage. This is a simplified graphic showing the existing system with a number of important water resources facilities, including Shasta Reservoir, Oroville Reservoir, Folsom Reservoir, the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta area.

In the following slides we will focus on in this area, north of Sacramento Valley, that's highlighted here. This slide indicates the current operation system without an offstream storage, and focused on the two major Sacramento River water users, the Tehama-Colusa Canal, the Glenn Irrigation District Canal. During the wintertime, when the flow in the river is relatively high, as depicted by the thicker line that represent the river, diversions through the canals are relatively low, as depicted by the thin canal lines, representing canal.

Again, the current operation, without offstream storage in the summertime, now there's a large agricultural demand in these service areas, so diversions through these canals are relatively high, while flow in the river is relatively low.

Now, with an offstream storage, during the wintertime when flow in the river is relatively high, we can divert some of the water and put it into an offstream storage. That water can either come from the Sacramento River and/or its tributaries. This bucket depicted here represents any type of a storage.

Now, an operation with an offstream storage in the summertime, during high demand times when these canals water users' demands are high, with water storage, the offstream storage, we have an alternative source of water to meet these water users' demands. Again, with an offstream storage, offstream storage can provide partial water deliveries from an offstream storage to these canals and, so with an offstream can improve the water supply reliability to these water users and at the same time reduce diversions from the Sacramento River during critical fish migration periods.

Now, let's look back at the larger system. Look at the water management flexibility for water – an offstream storage. Preliminary operation studies show that with an offstream storage, we can take water from an offstream storage, we can improve storage in Shasta Reservoir, Oroville Reservoir, and Folsom Reservoir, as well. In fact, with an offstream storage, we can even improve locally managed groundwater storage. Consistent with CALFED's vision for a North-of-the-Delta Offstream

Storage, an offstream storage can provide benefits for other CALFED programs, as I mentioned earlier, including Delta water quality and the amount of water count.

In summary, the North-of-the-Delta Offstream Storage can provide an opportunity for balanced solutions with ecosystem benefits and groundwater use, agricultural water use, municipal water use, and industrial water use.

In the CALFED Record of Decision there are two major milestones or steps. Step one was to create a partnership with local water interests. And step two is to complete environmental review and planning documentation by August 2004.

For the first step, create partnership with local water interests, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed initially in November 2000, with several local water interests. Subsequently, other local water interests have joined and signed the MOU, and today we have 11 local water interests who signed a Memorandum of Understanding. The Memorandum of Understanding remains an open document, which means any local water interests who wish to join the planning process can still sign the Memorandum of Understanding.

With the 11 local water interests, we have five CALFED agencies, including three federal agencies and two state agencies. The three federal agencies included in there is the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, which is the lead agency for complying with the National Environmental Policy Act. And then the state agencies includes the Department of Water Resources, which is the state lead agency for complying with the California Environmental Quality Act.

Step two of the Record of Decision is to complete environmental review and planning documentation by August 2004. We have, Department of Water Resources and the local planning partnership, planned to prepare a site specific Environmental Impact Statement and Report, and the Environmental Impact Statement and Report will be based on the final program, final CALFED Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement and Report, where appropriate.

The Notice of Preparation and Notice of intent are the first steps for the planning environmental documenting processes. And for the North-of-the-Delta Offstream Storage project, the Notice of Preparation was filed with the State Clearinghouse in November 2001, and the Notice of Intent was also filed with the state -- the Federal Register in November of 2001.

Included in the Notice of Preparation are some of the possible project alternatives. They include a No Project, Present Condition; No Action, Future Condition; a Sites Reservoir Alternative; a Newville Reservoir Alternative; and Other Possible Alternatives, including conjunctive use, enlarging Shasta, and other alternatives that may be developed during the Scoping Process. Now that the scoping is really next phases of the formal process of the environmental documentation process. And now that it is -- that your comments are most helpful in this process, that we are asking you specifically, are there any additional alternatives that we should be looking at in our evaluation, and are there other possible effects of these alternatives that we should be looking at? As far as the scoping meetings, scoping really provides an opportunity for the public and agencies to provide comments to us on the alternatives that we discuss, and any other possible alternatives that you may think of., and so we scheduled three scoping meetings in three geographical areas. We had a scoping meeting yesterday in Sacramento, tonight's is Maxwell, and then we'll have another one next week in Fresno. After the scoping meetings and the end of the comments period, we will be preparing a report to summarize the comments we receive and the alternatives, and determining on the alternatives to carry forward in our processes. We will then begin to write the environmental documentation.

So the opportunity for the public to involve is to attend the scoping meetings, and we ask that you submit your comments by January the 25th, this month, and again, on the alternatives that we presented and the possible effects, and then the alternatives that you come up with and their possible effects, please submit it to us. We ask that you submit your comments either at the scoping meetings, such as tonight, or submit it to us in writing or through the mail or fax. There will be opportunities, regular opportunities for the public to participate in continued outreach meetings that we're going to have during the environmental documentation process later on.

So we ask that you contact Scott Woodland who is our contact back there for receiving comments. His business cards are in the back of the table if you wish to obtain one so you can send him your comments later, and/or fax. All this information is on his business card.

So I want to thank you, and turn it back to Gwen.

FACILITATOR BUCHHOLZ: Thank you. And thank you for listening to Sean at this point. Now it's the main part of the meeting, is to obtain comments. Once again, I'm asking that -- we're going --

because what we're doing on all of these projects, or in all these scoping meetings, is we're recording the comments that we're getting. And tonight's meeting, we're recording them through the tape recorder here, so we're asking for people to come up here and use the microphone, which is why I need a speaker's card so that I can sort of control the flow of all the commentators.

The other part about this is that in that Scoping Report, which is the document that Sean mentioned about summarizing, there will be copies of all of the written comments. There will be copies of the transcripts that are made from the scoping meetings, as well as the responses, and they'll be organized in the Scoping Report. We'll also include in the Scoping Report copies of the presentation that was just done, and copies of the notice of publication, of the Notice of Intent and Notice of Preparation type things.

So, I have some comment cards. We're about ready to start comments. I want to know if anybody would also like to add to my pile of comment cards and didn't get an opportunity. Scott, could you -- or Jim has them here. And if you can just fill those out we'll collect them, and while you guys are doing this, if anybody else hasn't, the requirement is raise your hand and Jim will both give the cards and collect them.

And at this time I'd like to have our first commentator, that's Assemblyman Dickerson.

ASSEMBLYMAN DICKERSON: Talking to you guys, right? With your permission, before I do that, I'd like to recognize that Senator Johannessen, Maurice Johannessen, has joined us. I also, with your permission, if he would like to make some comments at this time, come on up. Maurice has been a valiant fighter for the water situation in the State of California for a number of years, and I know he probably has some interesting things to share with you here tonight. Maurice.

SENATOR JOHANNESSEN: Thank you. Well, I don't know how interesting they are, but there's some questions that I need to ask those here from CALFED, whether or not they had the opportunity to read the report that my committee put out after about four or five years' worth of hearings. Has anybody read it?

That answers my question. That is one of the problems that we're dealing with, because it seems to me that over this period of time, including the EIR and Scoping and the ROD, no one really had an opportunity to see or find out what was happening before it was passed. And, in fact, I was with the Governor at the time, and I asked him about this, and he says no problem. And they had me on the front steps there on the Capitol, smiling with him, and they passed a ROD, and I said what did we pass. So that's another question.

But I -- the interesting thing on this, which I think we need to make sure we understand, that is in the original -- well, I guess now you have 20 members in CALFED, the program itself? I don't know how you herd that many cats. But there used to be 13, then it was 14, and now it is 20. I don't know who's on first. And for those of you that may remember that the original -- the original commitments, those two original commitments that was made, one was that there would be no redirected impacts.

Now, what do we mean by redirected impact. Do you think by buying land in northern California, buy farming land in northern California, by buying water rights, even you disguise it as development rights, development easement, environmental easement, et cetera,

region that also serves as a seasonal wetlands for migrating waterfowls, shorebirds, and other wildlife.

California is now growing by nearly 600,000 people a year. Additionally, over the past several decades our state has dedicated millions of acre-feet of water to environmental purposes. Despite these increasing demands for water, we haven't developed the infrastructure that will be necessary to meet the needs of the numerous demands for water in California. We cannot wait until there is a crisis like we saw in the Klamath Basin this past year, where farmers, birds, and communities suffered. We must begin the efforts that are necessary to build new infrastructure in California, and we must do it now.

Surface storage in California, and particularly Sites Reservoir, provides the best opportunity to provide water security for all Californians. This is an opportunity to locally manage and operate a surface storage project in our region. This project will provide water management flexibility to make sure that we meet the needs of cities, farms, and the environment in northern California.

Specifically, it will give us the flexibility to provide additional cold water for salmon and steelhead from other sources serving the Sacramento River watershed, while at the same time helping to meet the needs of food and domestic water of a growing California population.

Finally, it has the potential to provide additional wetland habitat and water oriented recreation. As the elected representative from this area, I stand ready today to assist the efforts that are necessary to advance Sites Reservoir and provide water security for this region and for the entire state. I am deeply committed, even in these difficult budget times, to work with my colleagues to fully fund necessary infrastructure improvements in California, including surface storage like Sites Reservoir.

Foremost in your planning and design should be to ensure that sufficient water from Sites is available and affordable for local agricultural, community, and environmental use needs, as considerations are given to the other part of the state.

I think it's -- we're approaching the time, ladies and gentlemen, when we need to start -- stop talking, and start building. I want to know who brought the rebar tonight. Anybody bring rebar?

Let me now read a letter that was prepared by Secretary of State Bill Jones. It reads as follows.

"I strongly support the joint efforts of the Department of Water Resources and the CALFED Bay Delta program to move ahead with all aspects of the Sites Reservoir projects. During the initial discussion of establishment of the CALFED, Senator Costa and I insisted that water storage facilities be an integral feature of the Delta plan.

"I strongly urged that a Sites Reservoir be the first of a series of water storage projects that need to be built to show the CALFED partnership that northern California water interests would be protected. Collaborative efforts such as these are necessary to live up to the promise of CALFED; namely, that we all get well together. I am deeply concerned that the CALFED process has become vulcanized. It is through efforts like the one you are considering now that we can reestablish the statewide leadership that is necessary to get us back on track, notwithstanding a Record of Decision that so many have found inadequate for that purpose.

I believe this project, if ultimately constructed, will be a first step towards providing the kind of water supply reliability that is so desperately needed for California to live up to its responsibility to be a steward of our environmental resources.

"Again, this project would be tangible evidence that the state will take a leadership role in this issue. While our infrastructure is crumbling and failing to meet the needs of our growing state, state sponsorship of a water project has been virtually non-existent. Local

et cetera, do you think that has an impact on the local communities? Of course it does. Is this being taken into consideration? I haven't seen any reports on that yet.

The other thing which I am somewhat concerned about is the beneficiary pays. Who is the beneficiary? Certainly not we; we got the water. The beneficiary, it's got to be MWD and some of these other people south of us. With all the things that we now do, are we now going to be have to pay, on top of the fact that we do have the water? So that's some of the things that we need to take a look at.

Now, one of the things I noticed in the information that was sent out, that there's very little deviation that can be made from the ROD, the Record of Decision that was made, and then all this has to do with is how do we implement, or how do we decide what to do with the things that are being done, which is basically surface storage or storage and transportation. So none of the information that was available before no longer can be used in this area, so we'll be limited now basically to talk about only the storage part of it.

The other thing which is sort of an interesting thing, in here they state that the water use within the region are expected to increase driven primarily by a projected 2020 population of almost four million people. I guess that must be only in northern California they're talking about. Is that what is being talked about? Well, it is interesting, because after five -- four years, or five years of hearings of my committee which I chair, we have pretty well determined that California is going to have somewhere in the area of 50 million people in 2025-2030. So I don't know where the four million people coming from.

And for those who may be interested, we are talking about perhaps 1.9 million acre-feet, and the yield is substantially less than that. The other thing that you have to bear in mind when we deal with storage is that we are already somewhere between one and two million acre-feet short of deliveries. We estimate that it's going to take somewhere between six to nine million acre-feet of additional water in order to serve the needs that's going to be brought forth in the next 25 to 30 years. I obviously won't be here, but I hope the grandkids will.

So when you deal with this issue, the amount of water that is being talked about stored, for example, in Shasta Dam, which is somewhere around -- I can't even remember now exactly whether we're talking about the amount, but it was about a third of that is actually the yield. So when you're talking about storing capacity, we better start talking about what is the yield. What does it take to have the yield. And what will the cost for the -- of that yield be, and who's going to pay for it.

So keep track of these things, because I -- and I'd be the first one to tell you, it is just amazing, after all these years as chairing that committee, that I find that these reports -- which, incidentally, has gone to the federal government, going to all our representatives, I mean, it is widely distributed, I think we got something like five or six thousand copies out, and they're widely used -- and I have yet, I have yet to find a member of the CALFED group that can tell me they have read it. These are expert's opinions that have been delivered over a period of four or five years. What the hell's going on?

Anyway, you got it. Thank you.

(Applause.)

ASSEMBLYMAN DICKERSON: Okay. With that, I will present my comments. I've also been asked by Secretary of State Bill Jones to read his comments, which have been submitted to you in writing also. So with your permission, I'll do so.

I have long been a champion for new surface storage in California, and particularly Sites Reservoir here on the west side of the Sacramento Valley. Tonight is a historic night when we begin the process that will hopefully lead to building of this important offstream reservoir. The Second Assembly District I currently represent is a significant portion of the Sacramento Valley, including the area in which Sites Reservoir is located. Nearly two-thirds of the state's water supplies come from these watersheds. This is a very important agricultural

districts have been doing what they can to meet their needs, but this is a statewide issue that requires statewide leadership.

"I had the opportunity to join with you, Mr. Director" -- these comments are directed to Director Hannigan -- "and our colleagues, to unanimously support AB 2315 in 1993 that led to this joint endeavor. I have been involved from the earliest stages as a supporter of CALFED efforts, and I was the joint author of Proposition 204, the largest environmental water bond of its kind, when it was proposed in 1996. That served as a down payment on this unique state/federal partnership.

"I'm also uniquely qualified to comment on this process because I am personally familiar with water issues and how CALFED actions affect California's future. I come from a farm next to Mendota, in western Fresno County. My parents, my brother, and one of my daughters and her husband still farm that ground, and I still hold an interest in a portion of the farm. Our farm relies upon water delivered by the Firebaugh Canal Company and Westlands Water District.

"My father served on the State Water Commission during the 1960's, when the state saw a renaissance in state infrastructure building, including water development projects. My father also served on the boards of the Firebaugh Canal Company and the San Luis and Delta-Mendota Water Authority for many years. In those roles, he has been a leader in the efforts to secure a reliable long-term water supply for California vital to agricultural industry.

"But apart from those personal interests, I am involved and interested as a citizen and as a policy-maker who has a long held interest and a deep appreciation for the importance of water issues, and an understanding of their many complexities. It is in that spirit and with that understanding that I urge you to move ahead with the planning for and construction of this Offstream Storage project. As those familiar with the water issues are well aware, the DWR assessment of California water needs shows California's supply infrastructure fall short of meeting our needs even in the years of average rainfall. At any time we are literally one drought away from a water crisis.

"It is difficult for policy-makers to explain to the public the year after they see the Yolo Causeway area flooded and the Sacramento River teeming from bank to bank why they must conserve water so the state can meet its most basic needs. Sites Reservoir, filled primarily with diversion from the Sacramento River during times of peak flow, will reduce the impact of pumping from valley conveyance systems during the summer months, and will allow for additional flows of salmon and steelhead during the critical times.

"This kind of a project is what California needs to begin managing its resources to meet urban and agricultural needs, instead of trying to manage the short-term crisis that" -- "the inevitable chronic crisis that will come with the state's projected growth.

"Thank you for considering these remarks, and I urge you to do all that you can to ensure that your decision is one more step forward towards the completion of this critical project.

"Bill Jones, California Secretary of State."

Thank you very much.

(Applause.)

FACILITATOR BUCHHOLZ: Thank you, Assemblyman Dickerson. I'd like to -- I'm going through the comment cards here for speaker cards, and I'd like to have Mr. Reuben Williams, who's representing Assemblyman Aanestad.

MR. WILLIAMS: Well, good evening, everyone. I'm honored to be here on behalf of Assemblyman Sam Aanestad to share with you that Sam does support the Sites Reservoir project. He is an endorser of that. And he would be very pleased to see the turnout here this evening. The fact that you all get civically engaged and come out to voice your opinion, and

to learn from Sean Sou and his informative presentation further about this project, shows a lot about your interest.

And the need somewhat that Senator Johannessen brought up that locals need to be listened to, and that you, since this is -- it's in your back yard, a lot of you are farmers. I spoke with Lorraine Corbin and her son, a lot of you know her, they grow rice and alfalfa locally, that the needs of agriculture, the needs of a growing population, and the importance of waterfowl all need to be addressed, and these are things that your state government needs to look at and to get behind. And Assemblyman Aanestad supports the Sites Reservoir.

So I just wanted to say thank you for coming out, and please be heard, and get your cards in. So have a good evening.

FACILITATOR BUCHHOLZ: Before the next speaker I just wanted to let everybody know there's about 10 or 12 seats sporadically placed around in the first few rows. If anybody would like to have a seat feel free to move on up. Right now we'd like to have Mr. Bill Borrer, from Tehama County Board of Supervisors.

MR. BORRER: Thank you.

I would like to go back a few years. It was 1995 that I was -- volunteered to be a Supervisor, and the first thing that came across my desk I think was something about CALFED. And there was a figure in there, I think it was a million acre-feet of groundwater was going to come out of the Sacramento Valley for the CALFED needs. That got me and our board excited, and we formed a committee. And we had a great leader in our groundwater engineer at that point in time, Dan Keppen, who most of you know. Formed an advisory committee to get some input into CALFED. After a few meetings we decided we needed to expand that.

Over a couple of years we got seven counties involved, and I think you all know who those are. Came up with some definite policy statements about water storage, environmental needs, and groundwater. And it was the unanimous consent of all those counties, they all took action on it, to support all of those policy statements, and the one on storage definitely supported a offstream storage project, which at that point had not been identified. But since then, at least our county has been a strong supporter of the Sites Reservoir project, and hope that it goes forward.

I think when you get into these scoping sessions there will probably be some environmental concerns, but it's our opinion that some of all the environmental impacts will be positive for fish and wildlife and their habitat, and will definitely be positive to the environment of the population of the valley, as well as to the Bay Delta, which is what CALFED is supposed to be all about.

I'd like to look at the long term. I'm -- but years are going by and I'm not probably going to benefit too much from Sites Reservoir, but I just don't understand the thinking of some people when they don't get behind a storage in this state. Shasta Dam was certainly somebody's wild dream back in the 1930's, and look what it's done for the state, and where would we be without it. If we look 40 years down the road and the water needs of the state are certainly going to be probably beyond our comprehension even at this point in time, and this little project is just a start. But at least it'll be a start. There hasn't been any storage built in the state, I think, since Oroville Dam, and we need to get started.

The gentleman that started asked for comments about alternatives. And I live on the bank of the Sacramento River in Tehama, and we all know that that floods every time the water comes up. At least from the flood management department they say it floods. It even flooded last week, but I didn't see it. So when they get Sites built, I want them to think about going back to Cottonwood where the water is, and maybe we can get an offstream storage built and we can go back and do one that really has some impact.

If I could turn the mic off and say something, I think that we need to get started on this and get it done, because Senator Dickerson's going -- might be out of office before we get it dedicated.

Thank you.

(Applause.)

FACILITATOR BUCHHOLZ: Thank you. The next person is Mr. Keith Hansell, from the Glenn County Board of Supervisors.

MR. HANSELL: Yeah. I would like to say that Glenn County thoroughly supports Sites Reservoir. It has so many attributes that we just -- we have to have it. As I've stated before, we haven't developed any water, but this will do a lot for the flood control, too, in the district. I understand water will be taken out of Colusa Trough, which will really add to the protection of flood downstream in the trough. It will help the groundwater, it will help the environment, the wildlife. I just can't see any negatives in this whole program.

It's really nice to see the concept of the local input from the local districts. They're the ones that can manage the local efforts and the needs, and meet the needs of the local people. It's a good concept. We just, I think we need to get this one built and get on to something else. The only negative I can see in this whole project is the time it takes to get it built.

Thank you.

(Applause.)

FACILITATOR BUCHHOLZ: Thank you. The next card is from Mr. Forrest Sprague, from the Glenn County Board of Supervisors.

MR. SPRAGUE: Well, good evening. I likewise appreciate everybody turning out. This is your government in action, if it will, or maybe some might consider it inaction. But you want to take the opportunity to express your opinions of this, pro or con, on this particular project here tonight.

I, like Bill Borrer, I go back to originally seeing CALFED, when CALFED came out people thought CALFED was a bank and Metropolitan was a life insurance company. We all know a little better than that now. And one of the things that when it was first was crafted, if I recall it was about 6500 pages long, and at that time addressed only five elements. I think it was water quality, water reliability, ecosystem restoration, flood control, and levee integrity, if I recall. Only five elements. We've got now seven, I think, that includes storage.

But when it did first come out, at that time I was Chief of Staff for Senator Johannessen, and he put it upon my shoulders to start studying that document, 6500 pages. And what I soon discovered, as many of us did, that all the objectives identified in the CALFED Bay-Delta program, in that original EIR all things got better with storage. Ecosystem restoration, water quality, water reliability, flood control, all things got better with storage.

I'm very pleased to see the demonstration that we saw tonight, showing that continual nexus between storage and all of those elements of CALFED, because all things will get better with storage in the CALFED Bay-Delta program.

So I guess my comments would be addressed to those that still remain opposed to seeing Sites Reservoir. Most of those people embrace and support all the objectives found in the CALFED Bay-Delta program. However, some of them still remain opposed to storage. I would recommend to those people that they start looking at this realistically. If they are, in fact, concerned about the environment, water quality, water reliability, then they've got to support the storage element, as well. Anything less than that, in my opinion, is hypocritical.

Thank you.

(Applause.)

FACILITATOR BUCHHOLZ: Thank you. Our next speaker is Doug LaMalfa.

Mr. LaMALFA: Thank you. I'm a rice farmer from Butte County. I'm not a politician. I am, since parking the harvesters in October, I have started the run for the State Assembly.

As many of you also are rice farmers, we have a pretty common understanding of the value and the need of a constant water supply. Sites Reservoir will be one important component of that water supply. We need to get going on it, speed up the glacial pace that we get things done in this state with adding to the water supply.

With that, I won't be repetitive here, but I will go on record as being absolutely for the largest capacity Sites Reservoir we can have.

Thank you.

(Applause.)

FACILITATOR BUCHHOLZ: Mr. David Guy, from --okay. Ms. Mary Wells.

MS. WELLS: Thank you. This year marks the beginning of my 25th year as being very involved with water issues locally, and actually statewide. I have served as a staff member at Westside Water District for many years, and have moved on to directorships at Westside, Maxwell Irrigation, and I have served on the TC Authority for many years, as well as one of the founding directors at NCWA.

Water, of course, has consumed a major part of my life.

As current chairman of NCWA, I just recently participated in the historic Phase 8 of Statement of Principles Agreement. And if that is going to succeed, and there is out of that going to become a long-term solution to not only the north state, but the rest of the state, Sites or an offstream storage facility is going to be critical to that resolution.

In terms of my participation in the TC Authority, we need to better utilize not only our water resource up here, but we mustn't forget the facility resource that we have all invested in, and that is the Tehama-Colusa Canal and the GCID Canal. My family also owns land and participated in GCID, as well. So I think these are things that need to be considered. Existing facilities are critical to make this project work.

One of the main things that I've experienced in the last 25 years is the ever looming threat of water shortages. As a manager, it was critical every year, and I was -- particularly experienced through the nineties, when we would come out with preliminary predictions from the bureau of 10 percent, 15 percent, most of you are farmers here, you know that you cannot plan your cropping year with 10 percent and 15 percent. It would sometimes go up as high as 25 percent. We were all over the board, 15, 25 percent, 35 percent supply year, up to 100, back down to a 60. We have got to resolve this.

And it is only going to get worse. From '95 to the year 2000, we had relatively wet years and up along the TC, the Bureau of Reclamation, we were only able to receive 60 percent of our supply. And it isn't going to get better. We need offstream storage.

One of the reasons that I was particularly interested in the Memorandum of Understanding, the concept of meeting local needs first, is that the local people and their input was to be very, very important in this process. Unlike when the TC was built, and other earlier facilities, the bureau came along and told us how it was going to be, and we tried to comply. And, frankly, I've been trying to comply for 25 years. I would really like to have something to say about how this can be resolved. Very critical.

One of the things that has come out since the Memorandum of Understanding is that as a landowner, of all places, in Sites, I happen to have my home there, a couple of rangeland

operations, it's a wonderful place to live. I do not relish the thought of having to leave there. But I will tell you that if my family is to continue in their farming operations in GCID, along the TC, and the Maxwell Irrigation District, we have got to see additional reliable water supply. It's critical.

So with that in mind, I was instrumental, with some of the other landowners, to get the group together, and we will test this. Will landowners have input? So far, they have. We've had a couple of landowner meetings, and out of one of -- or, I should say, the first landowner meeting, we asked that this meeting be held here in this town, because this is where a lot of people are going to be impacted. And I thank DWR for listening to us, and having this meeting here. I do appreciate that.

But we will be testing you on a lot of other issues, such as when you get into the scoping considerations, you have told us that this is going to be open and inclusive. And I hope it will be, because, please remember, when you consider the Sites Reservoir alternative in your scoping, please consider that, of course, there will be landowners that are -- that will need to be relocated, that are definitely in the footprint. And I happen to be one of those species, if you will.

But there are also some other considerations. There are landowners who will have remaining land around the reservoir. When you are doing scoping and you are looking into the impacts of this, please consider the input of those landowners who have remaining land. They need to plan as to whether they need to relocate where they live, or what kind of utilization and how are they going to get to that property, which brings to mind, of course, access. Please consider those issues. And who better to call upon but the people who live there and know the land. So it's very important that those things be taken into consideration.

The other one is, of course, recreation will probably be a part of this. When you do get into the scoping of this alternative, please call upon and ask for the input of people who know best how that might work. It all ties in sort of a circle, if it is and will work, as to what the remaining land uses can be, the environmental impacts of the deer and the animals that are there, and those few species who may want to relocate. So I'm asking you, relative to scoping, please consider those things.

I'd like to close by saying that I do appreciate the structure, the direct line to the project management team that landowners have been afforded. And I ask each and every one of you that may potentially be impacted to speak up, call us. We will have continued landowner meetings.

Again, I'm going to say along with the water and the facilities that I've talked about is the people here who are probably equally an important resources to make this project work.

Thank you.

(Applause.)

FACILITATOR BUCHHOLZ: Pat Minturn, from Shasta County.

MR. MINTURN: Good evening. I'm Pat Minturn, the Shasta County Public Works Director.

Shasta County thinks storage is good, the benefits are needed, and Sites is probably superior to all the alternatives here in the north state. But I'd like to talk for a moment about the no action, no project alternative. It has profound impacts, and the impacts of the no action alternative always seem to be underestimated in these environmental documents. Oh, it'll work out. No. The impacts of not building, of not going forward, of the no action alternative, will hurt. They'll be real. For M&I, ag, environmental, flood control, power, recreation, and export, somebody is going to get hurt if this thing doesn't get built.

If we build it, there will still be pain, but we'll have some options. We can manage it somewhat. Overall, if you're not in a position to manage the impacts, if you don't have any options, the overall community impact for all of California, especially for here, the impact is greater. So these environmental documents, it's been my experience, are very good at finding all the problems with a proposed project. I'd like to see that same level of detail applied to the no action, no project alternative. No vague escapes. Explain what the future will look like without this project. How will that all work, how will all those needs be met. Own up to the damages in the no action alternative. And then, build it.

Thank you.

(Applause.)

FACILITATOR BUCHHOLZ: Mr. John Byrne.

MR. BYRNE: I'm John Byrne, and I'm running for the State Assembly. And why we're all here tonight is one of the reasons that I am running. We haven't developed any water storage for a long, long time. It's absolutely necessary, and it's imperative that we move forward with this project as quickly as we can.

It maybe isn't as big of a project as many of us would like. We'd like to see a lot more storage developed around northern California. But it is a project that we have and we can get moving on right away. So one thing that I would just like to ask with all of us here tonight, to the CALFED people, what can we do to make sure that we move this project forward as a group as quickly as we can. So if you can tell us also how to help you, we would be there for you.

So, thanks very much.

(Applause.)

FACILITATOR BUCHHOLZ: Pat Knight.

MAYOR KIGHT: Okay. Can I -- show of hands, anybody who's not running for office?

(Laughter.)

MAYOR KIGHT: Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. My name is Pat Kight.

FACILITATOR BUCHHOLZ: Sorry.

MAYOR KIGHT: That's okay. So am I, sometimes. I'm the Mayor of the City of Redding, and I also am a candidate for the Second District that Dickerson now holds. We're all getting to be very good friends here.

(Laughter.)

MAYOR KIGHT: As a resident of the Sacramento Valley for the past 31 years, I've long valued the water resources in northern California, and I'm deeply committed to the efforts that are necessary to protect our water rights and to be able to fully utilize our waters for the farms, for the cities, local communities, and for fish and wildlife in our region.

It's no secret that California is now adding nearly 600,000 people per year to this great state. Additionally, our state has dedicated millions of acre-feet of water to meet environmental needs, and yet while these demands have grown, the state has not developed the infrastructure that'll be necessary to meet the numerous demands for water in California. We simply cannot wait for a crisis like we saw this past year in the Klamath Basin. We must focus our energies to build new infrastructure to not only keep pace with the demands, but to stay ahead of it.

Although I'm primarily here tonight to listen, I want the people to know that I'm deeply committed to new surface storage in California, and particularly the Sites Reservoir. I'm also committed to local control and management of our water resources, and as your Assemblyman I will immediately forge alliances with other elected officials around the state to fund the important infrastructure that's critical to meet these demands in the state, including Sites Reservoir.

So I join you tonight in expressing my belief that tonight is historic. As we embark on the process that should lead to building a new important offstream reservoir.

Thank you.

(Applause.)

FACILITATOR BUCHHOLZ: Steve Evans, Friends of the River.

MR. EVANS: Good evening. I appreciate being here tonight and hearing all the great comments.

Just a little background. I'm Conservation Director of Friends of the River. We're the state's largest

river conservation group, with 6,000 members. I, in the last couple of years, have been serving on the Department of Water Resources Technical Advisory Group for the North of Delta Offstream Storage studies, so I'm fairly familiar with these projects. And I've been a long-time resident of northern California, including a 20-year resident of Chico, before I moved to Sacramento.

When we look at North-of-the-Delta Offstream Storage, there's several major questions that have to be asked, and these are the questions I think need to be posed in the CEQA and NEPA document, and answered in those documents. Probably one of the foremost questions is how much water will the Sites or Newville projects reliably produce, particularly when you consider the realistic environmental constraints. Estimates have been made, but they vary widely. And it's reliable production of water that we're looking for out of these projects, not estimates.

Another major question is how will that water be used. Will it go to agriculture, will it go to urban water users, will it be used for the environment. There's needs in all those sectors, certainly. But it depends, those sectors are defined differently, depending on who you talk to. I've heard urban users in the Sacramento Valley define environmental water as water use that would replace the water used for endangered species currently, or required by the Central Valley Project Improvement Act for the environment as a replacement. And that's a zero sum game. I've heard urban water users south of the Delta define environmental water as water that goes to the Delta that allows them to pump more water out of the Delta. So let's define what environmental water is before we say hey, let's build this project to benefit the environment.

How much will the project actually cost? In the initial studies the cost is varying widely from a half billion dollars to well over a billion, depending on how big it is, how -- what new facilities are constructed to divert the water and transport the water. And then, finally, who will pay for the water. One estimate places the cost of this water at \$450 an acre-foot, which no agricultural user in California can afford to pay. Are we going to build this project so that southern California urban users can use all the water, is the question, since they are actually the only entity in the state now who can afford to buy water at \$450 an acre-foot.

Other important questions need to be answered. Can substantial amounts of water be diverted from the Sacramento River without harming its dynamic meandering ecosystem, which the restoration of is a major CALFED goal, as well as the river's threatened and endangered fish and wildlife. This is a very important question. High flows in the Sacramento River, the very flows targeted for diversion to fill these offstream reservoirs, are

the flows that cause the river to meander back and forth to erode and deposit, to recreate riparian habitat. That dynamic process that you see occurring today is what makes the Sacramento River one of the most healthiest rivers in the Central Valley.

In comparison, the San Joaquin River, which has most of its water diverted out of the river, something like over 90 percent, is virtually a dead river that sustains no runs of salmon and steelhead. So how much water we divert from the Sacramento River and when we divert it will be a very key, crucial issue to determine. And the problem is we don't know at this point, and it may take several years to conduct studies to even come up with a ballpark answer. I urge the Department of Water Resources and other supporters of this project to slow down and really seriously look at that issue before charging forward.

What are the direct impacts of building offstream storage reservoirs in the Sites and Newville Valleys? We have some basic numbers, something like 14,000 acres would be inundated in the Sites Valley. Don't have the acreage for Newville. But there are some other impacts for those projects. The Newville project, for example, would require a diversion from Thomes Creek, which has a marginal steelhead run. But both the state and federal agencies have a legislative mandate to double salmon and steelhead runs in the state. Can we afford to create more impediments on even marginal tributaries like Thomes Creek that would keep us from achieving those goals.

Perhaps a more esoteric question, what is the potential for reservoir induced seismicity from the Sites Reservoir, in particular. The Sites Reservoir sits on a vast fault system that has produced catastrophic faults in the past, as the communities of Winters and Coalinga can attest. We can build dams to withstand the likely earthquakes in that fault system, but the question is can buildings here in Maxwell, for example, unreinforced masonry historic buildings, withstand earthquakes that could be induced by the sheer weight of a million acre-foot or more of water. Reservoir induced seismicity is a real issue. It -- Oroville Reservoir caused an earthquake in Oroville on a fault that wasn't even known of, and it's been proven over throughout the world in various sites. So it's one that really has to be taken a look at, particularly when we're on such an active fault as here on the west side of the Sacramento Valley.

Then, finally, what are the alternatives to building new surface storage. Groundwater storage, a conjunctive use, water use efficiency, and mandatory water conservation. I'm going to say something here tonight that's not going to be very popular, but that's because last week I said something in Sacramento that wasn't very popular. I informed the good citizens of Sacramento that they can no longer -- they were getting to the point where they can no longer use water at a flat rate, that every person using water in California has to have their water metered, and purchase water by volume. And the same is true for agricultural users in the Sacramento Valley.

There are many programs that need to be implemented that allow us to more efficiently use our existing water supplies and conserve water, and extend those water supplies. Some areas, including areas that have been -- particularly in northern California, don't have much of a good reputation. The Los Angeles area, for example, grew by over a million people in the last 15 years, and still using the same amount of water that they did 15 years ago. They did that through aggressive and mandatory water efficiency and conservation programs. That needs to be used statewide. We always need to conserve water. At no time can we allow ourselves to waste water.

I'll be submitting more detailed comments, but I just need to close. There have been various comments tonight about how long it's been since we built new water storage in the state, and I just have to mention that, in fact, we've built a lot of new water storage in the last several years. The Diamond Valley Dam, the state's largest offstream storage reservoir, built in southern California by the Metropolitan Water District, paid for by the Metropolitan Water District, who are the beneficiaries of that project. The Los Vaqueros Offstream Storage Reservoir near the Delta, built and paid for by the Contra Costa Water District and its users.

Projects are being built by the people who need them, and they're being paid for by the people who need them, and that's an important concept to keep in mind.

Thank you.

(Applause.)

FACILITATOR BUCHHOLZ: The next person I'd like to call is Marian Mathis. Did I get your name right?

MS. MATHIS: You sure did.

FACILITATOR BUCHHOLZ: Oh, good.

MS. MATHIS: I'd just like to start by saying that I'm not a candidate.

(Laughter.)

MS. MATHIS: I'm not an officeholder. My largest claim to fame is that I'm a landowner who will be impacted by the construction of the Sites Reservoir. And so one of the things that I want you to consider in the scoping process for that particular alternative is the access routes.

Now, we had a -- my husband and I had a meeting with a representative from the Department of Water Resources and a project engineer, and we suggested an alternate route that would not impact housing or prime ag ground, as the route now considered does. And so we want to make sure that that is included in the scoping process and is not shuffled off to the side, and that we have the same studies going on for that alternative route as we do for the footprint that we see right now. So that's our main concern at this particular time regarding the Sites Reservoir project.

However, I will say that if people need to pay for what they use, then it would be a really good idea for environmentalists to pay for their own projects.

(Applause.)

FACILITATOR BUCHHOLZ: Aileen Roder.

MS. RODER: Good evening. My name is Aileen Roder. I am a water policy analyst for Taxpayers for Common Sense, a non-profit national budget watchdog group.

As many long years of CALFED negotiations have shown us, in order for California's water future to be solved, the problems, we're going to have to all compromise. The CALFED Record of Decision issued in 2000 looked at several water projects as future potential projects that might be built and studied as to whether or not they will meet California's water needs. One of the main promises made to the federal taxpayer in the CALFED Record of Decision was that the beneficiary of projects would pay their fair share of building and maintaining those projects.

As California faces the future with a growing population, the state must thoroughly review projects to ensure that any proposed water projects are cost effective, fully cost justified, and that those benefiting from them are willing and able to pay their fair share of those projects.

In some instances, proposed projects have been studied multiple times and have never been built because they were unable to meet these important requirements. Taxpayers for Common Sense believes federal taxpayers should assist California in finding water solutions, but California and the primary beneficiaries of projects must take the lead in implementing and funding these solutions. Taxpayers cannot afford another Central Valley Project, where 60 years down the line the federal taxpayer has been stuck with over 85 percent of the bill. Californians must be willing to look at innovative solutions to help meet future water needs and pay their fair share.

The deal was if federal funds were going to be spent on these projects, then the beneficiaries and the state are going to have to come up with the funds, as well.

Thank you very much.

FACILITATOR BUCHHOLZ: Thank you. Ken Wells.

MR. WELLS: Hi, I'm Ken Wells, and I farm west of Maxwell, two miles from the Sites project. And on your scoping process, I'm a little concerned about what this dam will do to the groundwater level.

On my ranch alone, the groundwater is 12 to 15 feet in the summertime. In the wintertime it's about eight feet. And right south of my ranch, a neighbor of ours has an artesian in the middle of his ranch in the summertime.

Now, I'm just concerned what -- and don't get me wrong, I'm not against this -- I just want this to go through the scoping process that what a million acre-feet up behind us will do to this water level. And that's just something I hope we can check out.

Thank you.

(Applause.)

FACILITATOR BUCHHOLZ: Okay. I'm going to try, and I apologize if I mess this name up. Lynne Spivak.

MS. SPIVAK: That's very --

FACILITATOR BUCHHOLZ: It's close.

MS. SPIVAK: Hi, there. I'm Lynne Spivak, and I am a candidate for Colusa County Treasurer and Tax Collector, as long as this is candidates' night.

My concern, and I would like to preface I am in favor of the project, but my concern is the removal of those properties from our tax base in Colusa, and the tax dollars that will be removed. And in looking at the surrounding properties and the land uses, look at how we might be able to make up those tax dollars so that Colusa County doesn't lose on that front.

And so in thinking about that mitigation, if you will keep in touch with our Board of Supervisors and let the county have input on how we're going to resolve that issue,

I would really appreciate it.

Thank you.

(Applause.)

FACILITATOR BUCHHOLZ: Ann Randless.

MS. RANDLESS: Good evening. My name is Ann Randless, and I represent this evening the Maxwell Unified School District and Superintendent Ron Turner. This is a very localized issue for us.

We're also concerned about access routes. In December of 1941, we had made an agreement with Stony Creek that if we ever unified we would always continue to take their students down to Maxwell, should they choose to do so. In September of 1963, we did unify. So, we are traveling their students down. And we did a very short survey today, or I did, to see what our losses would be to the school.

We have a \$3.875 million budget total. We have three schools, an elementary school, a high school, and a continuation school. We would lose -- right now these are only students in the Stonyford area. This does not include from Sites to Lodoga. We would lose 17 students at

the high school, and the total of the ADA there, the loss would be \$166,000. A 15 student loss at the elementary school would be a total of \$73,977. This runs to about \$240,000. This does not include, with your routing access, the direct impact on our buses if we would have to use what no one in this area fondly calls the Leadville Grade. We would be running through probably a bus a year if we had to use that.

So I would consider -- ask you to consider your direct access routes for us, like Ms. Mathis. And we will definitely be at all your meetings.

Thank you.

(Applause.)

FACILITATOR BUCHHOLZ: Kim Vann, from Congressman Ose's office.

MS. VANN: Well, Congressman Ose is running for reelection, but unfortunately, not in this district, as most of you know. But we will be here until 2003.

So I am pleased to be here this evening, and the Congressman would like to thank NCWA for putting together this forum -- excuse me -- and he would like me to reaffirm his commitment to offstream storage.

The Congressman feels that the North-of-the-Delta Offstream Storage serves multiple needs. First and foremost, security to our farmers, so that they have the water when they need the water. Second, flood control for downstream communities. Third, reserve storage for general community use. And, fourth, storage -- future and current environmental demands.

Congressman Ose is pleased to report that we have secured \$1.5 million in our 2002 appropriations for Sites Reservoir. We secured an earmark of \$750,000 under our energy and water appropriations for Sites Reservoir. Specifically, these funds will go to a Sites specific environmental assessment and permitting work, including the evaluation of both the GCID main canal and the Tehama-Colusa Canal as a means to convey water to the proposed reservoirs. We also secured \$750,000 within CALFED for planning of Sites Reservoir.

We know that there are many issues that will arise with the proposed Sites Reservoir, but we are committed to this project to see a reliable source of offstream storage for northern California.

Thank you.

(Applause.)

FACILITATOR BUCHHOLZ: Supervisor William Waite, from Colusa County.

MR. WAITE: I appreciate everyone coming tonight. It shows the importance of what this project. I hadn't initially intended to talk, but after the last few speakers I think I have to say a few words.

Actually, the last new reservoir north of Tehachapi is the New Melones. I know some of these people work for the State Department of Water Resources said their whole career they've never developed a dam project, and some of them have been there almost 30 years.

We need water. We're gaining probably 600,000 people a year, and close to 2,000 people a day. If we started that reservoir tomorrow, it'd probably be ten years before you'd be utilizing the water. They talk about utilizing the flood water. Well, ask the people 47 years ago in Yuba City what flood water does. There's an excess of flood water. How much -- if we started pumping out of that river during the flood, how much are we going to take off? That much? It might end up difference of going over the levees. That water that goes over the levees ain't helping anyone.

We need water. But basically, the water out of the Sites Reservoir won't be going to southern California, it's going to stay here, going to basically in the Tehama- Colusa Canal and the Glenn-Colusa Irrigation system. Water that isn't pumped from the Glenn-Colusa and Tehama-Colusa Canal will be going down the river for whatever uses they have, including the fish, environmental, southern California. But also, you better -- who is -- who's going to build it, who's going to pay for it in southern California? So we've got to be realistic. We got surplus water, send to them, get our project built.

We need more water projects in northern California. You don't realize, it'll be 2004 before the environmental report's even done. And then I don't know how many, a few years of litigation, and other things, four or five years of construction, and maybe two or three years of filling the dam up. Optimistically, probably 20 years before we'll ever use the dam, if we start now.

So you just got to -- we've got to have something, California has. I've been on the Board of Supervisors for 17 years. I've fought for water the whole time. And we need this project.

Thanks.

(Applause.)

FACILITATOR BUCHHOLZ: Bob Barkhouse. You did want to speak, didn't you? I didn't realize this. Bob Barkhouse, from the City of Yuba City.

MR. BARKHOUSE: Currently, the Vice-Mayor of Yuba City. And you probably are thinking what in the hell is he doing clear over here. But what's happening here has a direct impact on what we're doing over on the other side of the valley.

The City of Yuba City currently is 45,000 people, and the crystal balls that people use to tell us what the population's going to be says that Yuba City will be over 100,000 people by year 2020. So that's only 20 years. Our problem is that we get our water out of the river, and the Feather River has similar problems as the Sacramento River. It has a lot of water going down it in the wintertime, and little or nothing going down in the summertime. And so our problem is that in year 2010, a lot of our water contracts that we currently have are going to have to be renegotiated, and whether we can swing the same original people that we had contracts with or not is going to be questionable.

So we're faced with a doubling of the population, not only in the City of Yuba City do we have 40,000, but around the outside of the city we have an urban moat of another 30,000. So if you double that, and we have, by year 2010, we're going to be faced with a serious situation, where are we going to get the water.

Now, I am also a farmer, so I know the farm side of this issue, also. But I think the reason I'm up here, and I want it to be on tape, that I think that you should, as the process proceeds, use the information you have as a model to look at other offstream storage units, so that we don't have to take each one of these and make a 20-year fight or a 30-year fight to move on to the next one. So if we can learn from this one, and proceed to the next ones, because I have no doubt in my mind we're going to have to conserve the water by storing it somewhere either onstream or offstream.

(Applause.)

FACILITATOR BUCHHOLZ: At this time I do not have anymore speaker cards. Is there anybody else in the audience that would like to speak? We need to -- let us get a card and we'll start there. Anybody else, while we take a couple of seconds here to work this out?

While that's being filled out, let me also remind you, please, if you have not signed on the mailing list, there will be subsequent workshop meetings all through the process. We'd like to notify you personally, and we can only do that through the process on the mailing list.

John Garner.

MR. GARNER: I, again, am not running for office. In fact, it's interesting to me how many people in the audience are just farming landowners. I hope they're here, because I'm speaking to you, not all the politicians and everybody else.

The reason Sites Reservoir, and I've been pushing just like Marian for 25 years -- oh, and also, one thing. You heard a earlier statement that CVPIA allotted 800,000 acre-feet to the environment. In that same contract or agreement, it said that the federal government would replace that water with storage, that they would find a means. So that's not a no sum gain, as it was alluded to. That was water that was supposed to be given back to us over time.

But anyway, as it affects us locally, and I talk about Glenn County, Colusa County, and Yolo County, as we well saw in the last couple of weeks, we've closed Highway 162, Maxwell Road, Highway 20, and the Hahn Road, of course, and then Lonestar for two or three days at a shot, and then they come back and forth. But we didn't really get that much rain. And if you -- if nothing else, the flood control aspect of this Sites Reservoir, and some of the other reservoirs that've been proposed along the west side, every time we get a road flooded in this county not only is it inconvenient, it does damage to farm ground, it does damages to the road. And all that relates right back to our -- we have to fix those roads. So we have to pay that in money.

So you've heard tonight that that reservoir will probably be built by southern California, and that, in essence, we couldn't afford the \$600 fee per acre-foot. But, remember that for the people who aren't involved in the water process, they call it an exchange. We use that water, they use our water, and so it's a net gain because they're using river water and we're using Sites water, so everybody's, you know, and they pay for the river water at the \$600 rate and we pay the -- our river water rate for that water, so it works out.

There's one thing that I would like to address the group here tonight. When it comes to the operation of filling the Sites Reservoir, one thing comes to mind, and as a farmer, I'm always thinking of what could go wrong. And I was just sitting there thinking, you know, what if we start a whole bunch of water down to Maxwell here, and then we're going to pump it up into Sites, and the electricity went off. If you think about that, you could really have a big problem down at the end of the Tehama-Colusa Canal.

And so as a proposal, I'd like you to consider possibly moving, or continuing the canal, the Tehama-Colusa Canal on down as it was originally proposed, at least into Yolo County, because there are some areas down there that have some offstream canyon storage that would be great groundwater recharge. And as you well know, Yolo County has subsidence on the west side down there, and they could really utilize. But it would be a buffer, so that if my scenario ever came true, that it had somewhere to go.

And so consider that, and as I'm sitting here I'm thinking of a lot of things that could go wrong, so I'll write some more comments down. But it's possible that even Contra Costa County -- and I'm reaching out of the scope here a little bit, but when I think of the amount of water that northern California has to use to push the salt back in the Delta so that Contra Costa County can take water that's fresh, fresher than saltwater, maybe it'd be more efficient to bring water down the west side to Contra Costa County, and then allow the Delta maybe to come -- become a little more saltier a little further north, as it was back in the fifties and the forties.

And again, I'm just throwing things around here. But we ought to evaluate the efficiency of the whole system. And I know there's a lot of negative feelings about letting the saltwater intrude further into the Delta, but, you know, you only got X amount of water. And so if we're using water right now to push the salt back down into the Bay, maybe it'd be wiser to consider doing something else.

And so, at any rate -- and I encourage all the landowners here who aren't paid professionals or running for office to think about some of those farmer scenarios, problems and what-not, and get specific about them. You know, about this -- like if the electricity goes off, or whatever, and write those things down. Don't just assume, because we hear a lot of talk here

about the integrated planning and management and all this, but nobody's ever talked specifically about some of the things that can happen.

And so write that stuff down, and send it in. We do have an opportunity to go ahead and address the folks who are in charge of this, and -- but a lot of times we have concerns, but they can't relate to those concerns because they don't -- they're not thinking of the same specifics that we're thinking of, when I think of electricity going off.

So with that, I'll sit down.

(Applause.)

FACILITATOR BUCHHOLZ: Mr. Tom Griffin.

MR. GRIFFITH: I'm Tom Griffith. I farm in the west side, south of the project. I didn't intend to speak when I came here, I really didn't have anything to say. But I don't know how many people know the location or where the -- some of the people that spoke earlier actually live. And I just -- I'm very touched by their willingness to sacrifice their homes and their ranches, Mary Wells, the Mathis family, Dick and Marian Mathis and Ken Wells, also, to improve the condition of the State of California. They're very, I think very unselfish in what they're offering to do. And I just hope that the people involved in the project take that into consideration, that these people are giving up properties that have been in their families for generations, and are willing to relocate elsewhere for the benefit of the State of California.

And another aspect that really hasn't been touched upon. Somewhat, the access roads were discussed, but the ranches that are out there are going to be greatly impacted as far as the managing of the livestock and how the -- I do have a ranch out there that I lease, I don't own it, so it's not going to impact me as much as it's going to impact them. But the facilities that we need to handle and process all the livestock and large areas around that valley are going to be impacted, as well. And I hope people consider that. It is -- it's going to take a lot of thought and a lot of changes to make that workable, as far as our ability to get those cattle in and out of that entire area. And people, as well.

So it's going to have a lot of impact, and I really appreciate what these people are willing to do. It's not near as much of a sacrifice for myself as it is for them, but they have a lot of foresight and are very generous in their acceptance of this project.

Thank you.

(Applause.)

FACILITATOR BUCHHOLZ: Okay. At this time we do not have anymore speaker cards. Oh, we do have one more speaker card. Frank Siefertman.

MR. SIEFERMAN: That's good enough.

FACILITATOR BUCHHOLZ: Okay.

(Laughter.)

MR. SIEFERMAN: Some people have trouble pronouncing names. I don't have any problem with it. Siefertman is how I pronounce it.

FACILITATOR BUCHHOLZ: I apologize.

MR. SIEFERMAN: No problem. I didn't come prepared to say anything, but I thought I would. My county's not represented here tonight. I'm a little disappointed. I spent time on the Yolo County Board of Supervisors a little less than ten years ago. I was at Mary Wells' ranch one time. I and my neighbor worked very hard a few years ago with the Department of Water Resources, trying

to show them that what they were doing with the CALFED program was not far enough. They needed to look at all the storage on the west side of this valley.

I still farm in Yolo County. I own land on the west side of the freeway. Originally, the Tehama-Colusa Canal was supposed to go through part of my property. The comment by John Garner about extending that canal is still viable. That's another option. Maybe somebody'll look at it at some time.

The comments about how long it takes to build a dam, I didn't hear anybody really pin it down, but you'll never build one within 25 to 30 years if you start today. I'm 75, and unlike some of the rest of the speakers I won't be here long enough to see it. But that's all right. The generations coming beyond are going to need this water. It's high time that we find a place to store it.

It was talked about the Cottonwood Reservoir. No question that reservoir should be looked at. There's an ample supply of water there. Certainly it will have some effect that would be negative to the Sacramento River, but there's still plenty of water in that river. We just have to manage how we send it down to the Delta.

I had previously owned land in the Colusa Basin. My neighbors, one of them's right here, Tom Hermle. Stand up, Tom. His house was built a long time ago. His neighbor's house was built 100 years ago. Never had water in it until '95, and it was four feet off the ground and was still in the house. So we need to have these reservoirs, as Keith Hansell said, to take the floodwaters off of this basin.

Thank you.

(Applause.)

FACILITATOR BUCHHOLZ: Do we have anymore speakers? Okay.

I want to thank you for your participation. I think your turn-out was very impressive, and it shows the willingness to participate in this part of the process. We do have -- do we have another speaker's card? The -- I just want to make sure everybody has an opportunity.

I do want to remind you that we are taking written comments. They can be mailed or faxed in to Scott Woodland. And Scott has his business cards there in the back, and you can pick them up as you leave so that you have the notification address.

Thank you again for attending and participating tonight.

(Thereupon the Scoping Meeting was concluded at 8:00 p.m.)

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CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

I, PETER PETTY, an Electronic Reporter, do hereby certify: That I am a disinterested person herein; that the foregoing Department of Water Resources Public Scoping Meeting was reported by me and thereafter transcribed into typewriting. I further certify that I am not of counsel or attorney

for any of the parties in this matter, nor in any way interested in the outcome of this matter.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this

28th day of January, 2002.

Peter Petty

Official Reporter

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Appendix H: Transcript of Public Scoping Meeting - Fresno, California, January 15, 2002

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING
NORTH-OF-THE-DELTA OFFSTREAM STORAGE
PICADILLY INN - UNIVERSITY4961 N. CEDAR
FRESNO, CALIFORNIA

TUESDAY, JANUARY 15, 2002
6:00 P.M.

PROCEEDINGS

-oOo-

FACILITATOR BUCHHOLZ: Good evening. My name is Gwen Buchholz, and I'm your Facilitator tonight.

The purpose of being here today is that we're here for the Scoping Report. We're starting the scoping process with the development of the environmental documentation for North-of-the-Delta Offstream Storage.

We are here for several reasons, as part of the scoping process. It's a process under CEQA and NEPA to develop an Environmental Impact Report under the Department of Water Resources, an Environmental Impact Statement under Bureau of Reclamation, and also documents off of the Programmatic EIR/EIS.

Our purpose tonight is to notify you of the intent of developing this environmental document, and to get your ideas on alternatives that should be considered in this document, and issues that need to be evaluated in detail. We also are here to develop a mailing list, and so, again, I

think all of you have signed up on the mailing list, the sign-in sheet, but if you haven't, please do so, because that's our basis of developing a mailing list for future meetings.

Today with us, we have several people with us. We have Sean Sou, who's the Project Manager for the Department of Water Resources; Donna Garcia, manager for the Bureau of Reclamation on this project. We have B.G. Heiland from the Department of Water Resources; Scott Woodland, and Jim Wicking, from the Department of Water Resources.

We will be recording this, all of our comments today. We would like to do a small presentation, short presentation to discuss the basis of the project, which is really a summary of what the information was in the Notice of Preparation and Notice of Intent, that was published in November of 2001. We'd like to have you hold your questions and comments until we're finished with the presentation. But that way, then we will be preparing our -- getting the comments directly onto the recordings, so we can make sure that they're included in their entirety in the Scoping Report, which will be prepared following the close of the scoping period.

We also ask -- we'll get the comment cards, and we'll be using those so we can record your name and -- for the comment period after the presentation.

So at this point in time I'd like to have Sean present the short presentation and discussion of the project.

MR. SOU: Thank you, Gwen, and good evening, everyone. Thank you for coming to our Scoping Meeting. Just a reminder that this is North-of-the-Delta, Sacramento Valley Storage Project, and not the San Joaquin River Project.

In order to introduce North-of-the-Delta Offstream Storage, I will described North-of-the-Delta or the Sacramento River region and the Sacramento River, the CALFED program, the North-of-the-Delta Offstream Storage program, the North-of-the-Delta Offstream Storage Planning Partnership, the environmental documentation processes, and public participation in this process.

The water resources of the Sacramento River region support over 2.5 million people and associated industries, over two million acres of farmland, and also supports 200,000 acres of marsh and agricultural farmland for waterfowl, which supports about 60 percent of the total duck and goose population in the Pacific Flyway. And, of course, supporting flows for riverine habitat. The total regional needs are projected to increase in the future.

The Sacramento River region, as shown on this map here, covers the drainage area of the Sacramento River and its tributaries. It covers roughly from the Oregon border in the north, to about Collinsville in the Delta, roughly 300 miles. At the same time, the Sacramento River and its tributaries make up the largest and most important riverine ecosystem in California.

These factors combined have brought us a number of challenges facing the region. Those challenges include users are subjected to shortages in both average and drought years, and that a number of species dependent on the riverine ecosystem are being designated as threatened or endangered. And the Sacramento River provides 80 percent of the inflow to the Delta, supporting both Delta ecosystem and Delta diversions.

These often competing demands on this limited resource has brought us to the point where operation and management of the system are becoming increasingly inflexible due to increase in water use within the region, Delta diversions and exports, and increase in recognition of environmental water needs.

Meanwhile, in May of 1995, CALFED began to develop a long-term comprehensive plan to restore ecological health and improve water management of the Bay-Delta system. The CALFED program is a collaborative effort involving, or including representatives of the agricultural, urban, environmental, business, fishery, tribal and local interests. And the CALFED programs are coordinated with local leadership, with an emphasis on regional solutions.

In the summer of 2000, CALFED published a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement and Report, and a Record of Decision with an action specific long-term plan. The CALFED solution area covers six regions, including all the region of interest of Sacramento River region.

CALFED has four program objective, basically. The four objectives are improved water supply reliability; improved ecosystem quality; provide or improve water quality; and improve levee and channel integrity to reduce risks associated with catastrophic failure of the Delta levees.

And in order to achieve those program objectives, CALFED has eight program elements, including storage component, which is our focus for the North-of-the-Delta Offstream Storage program, although all of the other components or elements will be affected somewhat by a North-of-the-Delta Offstream Storage.

In the Record of Decision, CALFED agencies concluded that storage can be used to help achieve the CALFED objectives, and more specifically that storage is critical to the successful implementation of all aspects of the CALFED program, and that storage provides much needed system flexibility.

Also the Record of Decision identifies Sites Reservoir, which is a North-of-the-Delta Offstream Storage alternative, as one of five surface storage projects statewide for continued evaluation. The other four of the surface storage projects that are needing investigation are Shasta enlargement, the Los Vaqueros expansion, in Delta storage, and the San Joaquin storage.

Consistent with the National Environmental Policy Act, the California Environmental Quality Act, and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, the Department and its partners will evaluate Sites Reservoir and a reasonable range of alternatives.

Concurrent with the North-of-the-Delta Offstream Storage program, these are some of the other programs in the Sacramento Valley that are ongoing. Those programs include Sacramento Valley Water Management Agreement (Phase 8 Settlement Agreement); the Sacramento Valley Basinwide Management Plan; the CALFED Ecosystem Restoration Program; the Sacramento River Conservation Area, also known as Senate Bill 1086;

Sacramento/San Joaquin River Basins Comprehensive Study; and other CALFED Stage 1 surface and groundwater storage programs.

In the Record of Decision also identifies specific objectives for North-of-the-Delta Offstream Storage project. And those objectives include to enhance water management flexibility in the Sacramento Valley; reduce diversions, water diversions on the Sacramento River during critical fish migration periods; increase reliability of supplies for a significant portion of the Sacramento Valley; and, of course, provide storage and operational benefits for other CALFED programs such as water quality and the Environmental Water Account.

In order to understand how North-of-the-Delta Offstream Storage affects the current system, as well as how those objectives for North-of-the-Delta Offstream Storage will be accomplished, it is helpful to do a comparison of the system with and without an offstream storage. This is a simplified graphic representing the current system, with a number of important Water Resources facilities including Shasta Reservoir; Oroville Reservoir; Folsom Reservoir; the Sacramento River, Feather, and the American Rivers; and the Sacramento/San Joaquin Delta.

In the following slides we'll focus in on this area that's outlined here on the northern Sacramento Valley there. This graphic indicates the current operation without an offstream storage, focusing in on the two major water users of the Sacramento River, the Tehama-Colusa Canal and the Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District Canal. During the wintertime, when flows in the river are relatively high, as indicated by this thicker line representing the Sacramento River, diversions to these canals are relatively low, as indicated by the thinner canal lines.

Again, on current operation without an offstream storage in the summertime, now there's a greater, much greater demand, agricultural demand in these two service areas in the summertime. So diversions to these canals are relatively high, while flow in the river is relatively low during the summer.

Now, operation with an offstream storage. During the wintertime, when flow in the river is relatively high, we can divert water into an offstream storage either from the Sacramento River or its tributaries. Our depiction of this bucket here, it's really -- this bucket here depicts any type of a storage. Now, the current operation with an offstream storage in the summertime, now there's a greater demand in these service areas. With an offstream storage, with water stored in an offstream storage in the wintertime, we now have an alternative source of water to meet these demands.

With an offstream storage, we can provide partial delivery to these canals, these water users in these two canals. And at the same time, with an offstream storage, we can improve the water supply reliability of these canals, these water users in these areas, as well as reduce water diversions from the river during critical fish migration periods.

Now, let's look back at the bigger system, the larger system. With an offstream storage, as a matter of fact, with an offstream storage operation, preliminary operation studies indicate that with an offstream storage operation for the current system, we can provide a significant water management flexibility to the system. And more specifically, if we can get water from an offstream storage we can improve storage in Shasta Reservoir, in Oroville Reservoir, and Folsom Reservoir, as well. And with water storage, an offstream storage, we can even improve locally managed groundwater storage.

In summary, North-of-the-Delta Offstream Storage can provide opportunities for other benefits for other CALFED programs, including Delta water quality and the environmental water account. North-of-the-Delta Offstream Storage provides an opportunity for balanced solutions with ecosystem benefits, environmental water use, agricultural water use, municipal water use, and industrial water use.

In the CALFED Record of Decision, two milestones or steps were identified. The first milestone was established to create a partnership local water interests, and the second step or

milestone was to complete the environmental review and planing documentation by August 2004.

For the first milestone, a Memorandum of Understanding was created with local partnership, local water interests, and to date there are 11 local water interests who have signed the Memorandum of Understanding for joint planning. And there are five CALFED agencies, including three federal and two state.

The federal agencies, including Bureau of Reclamation, which is represented by Donna Garcia here, they are the CALFED's lead agency for compliance with the National Environmental Quality -- Policy Act, excuse me. And then Department of Water Resources is the state agency represented, which is the lead agency for compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act.

The second milestone in the Record of Decision identifies that -- specifies that the Department of Water Resources and Bureau of Reclamation and the partnership will prepare a site specific Environmental Impact Report and Statement. It will be based on the final, CALFED final programmatic Environmental Impact Statement and Report, where appropriate. And one other major planning effort that's concurrently going on right now is the engineering feasibility studies.

The Notice of Preparation and Notice of Intent are really the first formal steps for the environmental planning processes. For the North-of-the-Delta Offstream Storage program, the Notice of Preparation was filed with the State Clearinghouse on November 5th, 2001, and the Notice of Intent was also filed with the Federal Register on November of 2001.

Listed in the Notice of Preparation are a list of possible project alternatives. Those include no project, present condition; no action, future condition; Sites Reservoir alternative; and Newville Reservoir alternative, and other possible alternatives that may come out of the scoping process. But other possible alternatives include a conjunctive use and Shasta enlargement.

Now, this is where your comments are most helpful to us. Specifically, what we're asking from scoping meetings is are there other alternatives associated with North-of-the-Delta Offstream Storage that we should investigate, that we should consider in our evaluation. And also, are there specific effects that we should -- associated with the alternatives, that we should evaluate in our evaluation.

So as far as scoping meetings, we have three scoping meetings scheduled. We had one in Sacramento, one in Maxwell, and then tonight we're at the one in Fresno. So after the scoping, we will prepare a Scoping Report to summarize the comments we received, and then carry on the alternatives we carry forward in the environmental documentation. We will then begin writing the Environmental Impact Statement and Report and the Clean Water Act analysis.

So the way that the people and public agencies can comment on is to attend scoping meetings and submit your comments either at the scoping meetings, such as tonight, or send it to our contact. I'll introduce Scott later on. After -- we ask that you submit your comments by the 25th of this month, and we ask, again, the comments we're seeking are there other alternatives that we should be looking at, and the alternatives that we have outlined earlier in the Notice of Preparation, are there possible effects that -- to those alternatives that we should be considering, and are there alternatives that you want us to look at and the effects associated with those alternatives.

And, as part of the continuing outreach, we would -- there will be regular opportunities for the public to participate in the process. There will be regular outreach public meetings where the public can participate in the process.

So, finally, send your comments to Scott Woodland through either fax or regular mail. And Scott Woodland is in back of the room. He will be glad to take your comments. He has

business cards in the back of the room, and his name is also in the Notice of Preparation and all flyers, so feel free to send in your comments if you don't submit them tonight.

Thank you.

FACILITATOR BUCHHOLZ: Thank you. That concludes our formal part of the presentation. Again, as I said, we're going to be taking your comments, and they're being recorded. Transcripts of the recording, of the recording and comments received in all of the scoping meetings will be included in the final Scoping Report, as well as all of the letters from members of the public and other comments we receive during the -- that we receive during the scoping process.

And so at this point in time, I would ask that if you -- since we're doing the recording, if anybody wants to make a comment tonight, to please go up -- fill out the blue card that Jim and Scott will be passing out, and then we ask you to come up here to make your comments for the recording.

Does anybody have any comments to make tonight?

FROM THE AUDIENCE: Can we ask a question?

FACILITATOR BUCHHOLZ: If you'll --

MR. ROBERTS: It's not really a comment. Can we get a copy of what you put on the wall?

FACILITATOR BUCHHOLZ: Oh, I'm sorry. The copies of the --

MR. ROBERTS: The presentation --

FACILITATOR BUCHHOLZ: -- that will also be in the Scoping Report we prepare.

MR. ROBERTS: And can we get it in advance of --

FACILITATOR BUCHHOLZ: We're not making that available in advance right now, I'm sorry. And that information, though, let me just say this, is specifically -- was prepared based upon all of the information presented in the Notice of Intent and Notice of Preparation, and we do have copies of those here tonight.

MR. IGAWA: Can I ask another question? I don't have a comment, I have a question. In the presentation there was no indication of South of the Delta benefits. Is there a reason for that, or is that not --

FACILITATOR BUCHHOLZ: Well, I think that would be -- we might put that in part of our comments, recorded comments, if you don't mind, in the scoping meetings. One of the comments that -- I'll report that that's -- I think that's in the record, that we received a comment that the benefits that would be received South of the Delta be included in the analysis. Is that a correct interpretation?

Okay. Any other comments that should be included in our consideration? Any other questions off the record? You probably don't have any --

MR. IGAWA: I have another question. I was curious, if the balance is --

FACILITATOR BUCHHOLZ: I can't answer that, we're just starting, and then bringing together information. That's why we're asking for comments tonight. I mean, how -- one of the questions we're asking is how detailed should the analysis be, as far as the questions -- and I should also say there was a comment that the -- what the price of water would be for those -- the cost of water.

MR. IGAWA: It seems like you could do that part of that documentation at some point and later figure out the cost of water and other --

FACILITATOR BUCHHOLZ: Well, at this time, as we said in the presentation, we will be studying the environmental documentation all at the –

MR. ROBERTS: If you have offstream storage –

FACILITATOR BUCHHOLZ: That's what's out there in the comments. Right now we're trying to take those comments. If that's one of the comments it should be recorded. One of the comments –

MR. ROBERTS: Can I have anymore comments or questions, before I go –

FACILITATOR BUCHHOLZ: I think that's the real question. Maybe we can do that so we can get them recorded.

MR. ROBERTS: I'm Don Roberts, Madera Irrigation District. I'd like to know -- the question I guess is who's funding the study, the EIS.

FACILITATOR BUCHHOLZ: We're generally not responding to comments -- or questions, but I think that might be one, Sean, that we might want to respond to tonight, on who's funding the preparation of the environmental documentation.

MR. SOU: Well, I think this is a joint project with the Bureau and the State Department of Water Resources. So our funds at the Department of Water Resources comes from mostly General State funding.

MR. ROBERTS: Well, you mentioned there were 11 people in the MOU. Are they all part of the funding, or are they just –

MR. SOU: No, they're just a planning partnership right now. They don't provide the funding.

FACILITATOR BUCHHOLZ: We're generally not responding to questions, but I think that was an appropriate one.

Any other comments for the record? If there are no more comments, we're going to close the formal comment period. We will be accepting comments through January 25th. Please mail or fax them to Scott Woodland, and as Sean said, his cards are in the back of the room.

Thank you for your attendance, and make sure you sign up on the mailing list so we can notify you of future outreach meetings.

(Thereupon the Scoping Meeting was concluded at 6:29 p.m.)

-oOo-

CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

I, PETER PETTY, an Electronic Reporter, do hereby certify: That I am a disinterested person herein; that the foregoing Department of Water Resources Public Scoping Meeting was reported by me and thereafter transcribed into typewriting.

I further certify that I am not of counsel or attorney for any of the parties in this matter, nor in any way interested in the outcome of this matter.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this

28th day of January, 2002.

Peter Petty

Official Reporter

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Appendix I: Transcript of Tribal Scoping Meeting - Williams, California, January 23, 2002

Tribal Scoping for North-of-the Delta Offstream Storage Investigation

Summary of January 23, 2002 meeting

Cortina Indian Rancheria Office

Williams, CA

Participants

Department of Water Resources:

B.G. Heiland	Sean Sou	Scott Woodland
Michiyo Sakamoto	Jim Wiekling	

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation:

Donna Garcia	Patricia Rivera	Jim West
Frank Perniciaro	Pat Welch	

Bureau of Indian Affairs:

Frank Fryman
Douglas Garcia

Bureau of Land Management:

Julie Burcell

Regional Solicitor's Office:

Kaylee Allen

Facilitator:

Gwen Buchholz, CH2M Hill

Attendees:

Karen E. Flores	John Hancock	Ken Swearingen
Kesner Flores	Leslie Lohse	Howard Whipple, Jr.
Everett Freeman	Joe G. Pina	

Introduction: Kesner Flores, Director of the Wintun Environmental Protection Agency (WEPA) opened the meeting and indicated that this is the first time in his memory that a tribal scoping has been held.

Everett Freeman from the Paskenta Tribe led the group in an opening prayer. Flores mentioned that the presentation would be informational at first and we would then move into a formal presentation, that blue comment cards were available, and at the end of the formal comment period, questions would be entertained from the audience.

Gwen Buchholz of CH2M Hill opened the scoping meeting by stating that the North of the Delta Offstream Storage Project is a joint project under CALFED, DWR, and the U. S. Bureau of Reclamation. Following introductions, Buchholz stated that there was a short presentation and requested that comments be held until its completion. She stated that one of the main purposes of the meeting is to obtain comments on the types of alternatives and the issues we need to look at in the environmental documentation. Comments made at this meeting will be included in the scoping report that will be made available to everyone participating in the scoping process. For this reason, attendees were asked to ensure their names are on the mailing list.

Sean Sou (DWR) made a PowerPoint presentation on North of the Delta Offstream Storage. After the presentation, the meeting was opened for comments. The comment period will conclude on Friday, January 25, 2002.

Comments were recorded on an audio device and on flipcharts. Buchholz emphasized the importance of the comments and that they will help determine the issues we'll be addressing in the evaluation. The evaluation will include the specific needs, requests and concerns of residents in this geographical area.

Kesner Flores of Cortina Indian Rancheria introduced himself as a tribal member and environmental director of the Wintun Environmental Protection Agency. He stated that beyond the presentation, there are several things that need to be considered when working with tribes, and of utmost importance is that there must definitely be a working relationship between the government and the tribes.

Flores continued: Under the federal statutes concerning tribes and directives, and even the State of California, in regards to the resolution passed by Governor Davis, tribes need to be consulted with on a government-to-government relationship even more so now that federal dollars are actually in the system, because since we started this NEPA process under [Section] 106, they need to have the consultation. It is good for meetings like this to happen for tribes to share openly with each other, so we know what's being said across the table. Also, there're going to be times when each individual tribe needs to have consultation. The northern tribes, Shasta, even the northern band of Wintun, with the Winimum, their spiritual grounds are on Lake Shasta. Some of those lands were actually encumbered in that initial [?]. By raising it [the reservoir], they're going to lose some of their ceremonial areas. As a recognized tribe, we still go north to participate in those ceremonies, and there are people to contact, and we know their names. In the Oroville area, the tribes up there are very concerned. They're going through the appropriate licensing process with Oroville now, but they have concerns that need to be addressed, and they want that expressed.

In regards to Sites Reservoir, we have concerns. California tribes have never settled water rights, treaty rights, there've been no treaties ratified. Tribes have not given up their subsistence areas and still practice subsistence gathering and cultural practices that deal with the water, and we know because of court cases that this needs to be looked at. Traditional historical practices, especially when we get into quantification and quality of water. With that, Grindstone has some concerns in regards to some of the alternatives in regards to the Sites Reservoir. Sites Reservoir for our cultural area—we're concerned with quantification and quality as well as understanding that there might be a question of compensation to tribes for the water. Although the State might believe that it is State water, those things have never been settled, so we need to look at those issues. And we know the Department of Interior knows it's too costly to quantify water rights for tribes; we've asked and petitioned that. In regards to an alternative, working with Sites from Cortina, we're looking at some subsistence things that were lost. When the rivers here had water quality issues, we lost freshwater mussels that were historically consumed, that were part of our historical food. Also our fishing rights—we have lost access to a lot of those waterways because of private land, so those things need to be looked at. I believe that's mostly what I remember.

Buchholz [writing on flipchart] asked if there was something else they would like recorded specifically.

Flores: I think in regards to the loss, we were looking at sites of using the stowaways to create artificial habitat for some of the freshwater mussels. Plus, the only place they are found are in the Lost River; I believe that one other place, so that we can actually transplant, so that would help with endangered species, since they are only in one area and they used to be plentiful here. That would help in offsetting some of the environmental impacts. Also, we have a lot of cultural sites within the footprint of the Sites Reservoir, and some of our oldest sites in terms of our history, and we need to look at the mitigation of those, and that's going to take a concerted effort with Taskana, Colusa, Rumsey, and Cortina, in regards to Sites Reservoir.

Buchholz: So with all five of the tribes.

Flores: Yes, and Round Valley possibly has some ties, but we have not heard at this time, but they are notified.

Buchholz: I also wanted to capture the concept of raising Shasta associated with those issues up there, the issues of the sites. Am I capturing the theme of spiritual sites?

Flores: They're cultural sites where traditional practices still occur.

Leslie Lohse from the Paskenta Band of Nomlaki Indians: A couple of things we've talked about is, there is offered in the CALFED draft when they had their programmatic EIS/EIR; they talked about mitigating strategies. One of the things we have a concern for is: Are you going to be looking at, as you're identifying things, mitigating strategies for tribes for the consideration of them when you're talking about water supply, how that's going to impact them when you increase water supply? By having this storage facility, how are you going to come back and mitigate that with tribes and the impact it's going to have on them? And as water users increase, because there's always going to be increase, how are tribes going to be addressed with that issue? In regard to water conservation, as you ask us to conserve, can we participate possibly in the water user efficiency parts of this? How then are we going to be compensated, how is that going to be mitigated with the tribes, in order to...we conserve, we give something up, then what do we get? Include that type of consideration in the tribes, and those are some of the concerns we have, that that kind of language and approach as you're looking at all these things, what is left for the tribes to come back and mitigate those things? Because first of all, on one hand, as Kesner said, we don't have quantified water rights, but we do know that we have the agreements in regard to preserving and protecting our water rights. We have that language in place, but now we need this to match and coincide, so that we can go on. I have a couple of questions, though, possibly in regard to, as I look at the structure, you have Shasta Dam, you have the Tehama County Irrigation District, the Glenn County Irrigation District and how the storage is going to facilitate that and is it going to catch possibly storm water. So I guess the mitigating thing is, what happens to the water quality; we need to look at water quality impact. As we raise this area and put this water in storage, what happens in those drought years when we don't have any runoff, where are we going to get water to replenish that so we maintain the water quality, and what impact will that have upon us, because when you're not pulling it out of an offstream site, you're probably going to pump it out of the ground, possibly, up the hill.

Buchholz: So let me capture your comment. So if the storage is down and we don't have any water in the reservoir because it's a dry year, and if the users rely on groundwater, what happens?

Lohse: Yes, and how do we fit into that into protecting our groundwater? Also, and this is from Paskentas, the Bureau of Reclamation, their canals, the Tehama County Colusa Canal comes into our property, they overflow part of it, and we have a resolution MOU with them in regard to when they can dump it. Corning Water District will participate in that. That is included, if I understand it correctly, water will be diverted out of that canal up this way, perhaps? It's used as possible, or is it going to be taken out? Where is the line going to go basically?

Buchholz: That's part of the process right now, we don't know that answer, because we're just starting this part of the study, and so right now we haven't even developed the whole range of alternatives, which is one of the reasons why we're here tonight, to understand from you things that we should put in the alternatives, and if we may have alternatives you like or not like, what we need to look at so that we know the effects are, to identify the effects on you. So the answer is we don't know, and the question, as I'm trying to capture it was the concern for water quality or also for surface waters.

Lohse: For both, because there are surface waters that we have that will be impacted because they are being diverted elsewhere. Those are some of my concerns; I'll try and think of something later. Thank you.

Flores: Leslie brought up a good point. With the water level dropping in drought years, those cultural sites will then be exposed. With our history of Lake Shasta, every time the water level drops, we have people digging in areas and taking out artifacts and so forth. We would have to look at that, the mitigation for drought years and talk about what the alternatives might be for those would uncover our people, and what are the estimated levels for each year, where that would be, and what would be exposed, and think of the alternative. Reservoirs have flow and turbulence and they cause degradation in the lower levels, and those things haven't been addressed in the past episodes of building storage areas.

Buchholz: Effects of erosion on exposure to cultural sites due to turbulence and changing water levels and exposure to cultural sites.

Kesner: The other thing with tribes, quantity and water rights issues--our tribes should be able to tap into those canals to access water as part of the mitigation, because the tribal lands, with changes in conveyances of water rights along river bodies now with CALFED, are losing access to flow which is going to change their water uses and there needs to be some compensation that can be worked out with each tribe.

John Hancock: I represent the Upper Lake Pomo Reservation and I'd like to read something that was prepared by HERS (Haskell Environmental Research Studies Center). I won't read the whole thing, but I'll provide you a copy.

Buchholz: Specific things are: Establish government-to-government relations, importance of considering tribal water rights and protection of cultural resources.

Ken Swearingen (Cortina Indian Rancheria): Our reservation lies on Stony Creek, which runs into Black Butte Lake and then into Sacramento. What would happen to the waters there upstream of Black Butte? We have many cultural uses by Stony Ford. Cultural practices with a round house that ties to the river, shared by numerous tribes who, during cultural times, come from other round houses throughout the valley. We have the oldest round house in California.

Leslie Lohse: I would ask also that consideration. There are certain expectations by stakeholders that get into an assessment-type forum. I would ask that you take into consideration that tribes are not going to be assessed. I am a part of the Bay-Delta Public Advisory Committee, on the environmental justice side, so some of the message I'm trying to make clear about the relationship between the tribes and the federal government. I don't know that everyone is clear, because I've run into several agency people who aren't clear about it, and those are some of the things, I don't know how you can build that into it, or address it, but as we are listed as the beneficiary, our relationship started with the federal government prior to there being a federal government. It takes it out of the realm of the public actually, in that sense, because there is a special relationship. I think that needs to be considered as you're looking at the mitigating thing, and building in those areas for us to have that opening to work on a government to government basis, be working in. Before there was a U. S. government, there was our government, and I believe the substantiation is that you don't strike treaties with special interest groups and a low income group; you strike it with another nation, another government. And hopefully you will build some language into that that will preserve that and make that clear, so hopefully we aren't looked at as an adversary to any other water user, but as a special water interest and work within the bounds of CALFED. But there is a different level that we're at in our relationship.

John Hancock: For the last 5-6 years in dealing with CALFED and other agencies, I've found out that other states have this government-to-government sovereign relationship with the federal government. Maybe this gets them the deals; California Indians have been left out for some reason. And that's probably the biggest bone of contention you have, that you don't recognize them at the level like Kesner said, not as local governments.

Lohse: I have a question of the USBR Representative. Apparently there was a feasibility study done in 1991. It wasn't completely put through, but is there any way of locating those findings so we can look at them?

Donna Garcia: We actually have a copy of the report and we can get you one. [Kesner Flores requested a copy, also.]

Buchholz: There's been a lot of studies in this area, and we're starting over looking at the scoping, looking at the alternatives considering stakeholders uses, not forgetting what's been done in the past.

Lohse: I thought it might be valuable for us to see what has occurred. In regard to the CALFED, I'm not clear on the state code in regard to dealing with the tribes.

Buchholz: I think we've captured the concept that we need to get something established and I'm not sure we have the answer tonight. We're looking at the environmental document as a joint document between the federal and state governments. In general that means that both sets of codes will have to be dealt with, and yes, you're right, this is an overlapping situation.

Flores: The relationship with the federal government needs to be defined, because that reflects mitigation measures and environmental questions that need to be answered. The tribes know the answer; we're waiting for the realization and the enforcement because the gorilla in the closet for tribes is the federal government. This project cannot be done without congressional approval.

John Hancock: Before the signing of the CALFED ROD, some of us were told by certain people, and I don't want to mention names, that there are people here who know how to deal with Native Americans because they brought them in from Arizona and Colorado. We know that those tribes got dealt with in what I call a fair way. Wherever those guys went to, I'd like to know, because they were supposed to come out to the tribes and talk to us and seeing what our issues were based upon their experience in Arizona and Colorado. We haven't seen them. This was a combination of federal departments.

Buchholz: So there's basically a continued need for federal representatives to work with the tribes, at the tribes.

Flores: There's proprietary issues in regards to cultural practices and subsistence areas that might not be shared even amongst tribes because the different practices and areas sometimes are held sacred to those individuals carrying out those cultural practices, whether it be basket weaving or gathering for round houses, so with that there needs to be a provision for things that cannot be FOIAed (as in Freedom of Information Act), or confidential to the tribe for those people who practice those practices. Because of the recent court decisions, it might hinder the conclusion of this EIS, because those things need to be in place before information can be shared. We want to continue having outreach and tribal workshops. As we've said before, tribes do not speak in public forums because that's truly not the relationship.

Buchholz: Any other formal comments we'd like to make part of the record? At this time we'd like to close this part of the scoping meeting. We will be preparing, when we receive all the comments after February 8, we will be looking through those and organizing them so that we can use those to make sure we're addressing those issues in the environmental document.

We will be preparing a scoping report, with all the scoping comments; we'll be including things such as the letters in that scoping document. And we'll also be looking at that and that will also be used as a roadmap and as a guide for completing the environmental documentation, so that when we get to the end, we want to go back and make sure that those things were addressed the way we talked about them in the scoping report. With this, we'd like to close the formal part of the scoping meeting. If you have any other comments, we're not necessarily going to record for the scoping process, and we don't have a lot of answers; we're just starting.

Appendix J: Outline of Draft EIS/EIR

CHAPTER 1 PROJECT OBJECTIVES/PURPOSE AND NEED FOR ACTION

- 1.1 Introduction
- 1.2 Purpose and Need for the Action
- 1.3 Relationship to the CALFED Program
- 1.4 Study Area
- 1.5 Study Period
- 1.6 Public Involvement Process
- 1.7 Related Activities

CHAPTER 2 DESCRIPTION OF ALTERNATIVES

- 2.1 Introduction
- 2.2 North-of-the-Delta Offstream Storage Process
- 2.3 Issues Considered as Part of North-of-the-Delta Offstream Storage Process
- 2.4 Development of Alternatives
 - Existing Conditions
 - No Action Alternative
 - Alternative 1
 - Alternative 2
 - Alternative 3
 - Alternative 4
- 2.5 Proposed Action/Preferred Alternative
- 2.6 Cumulative Impact Analysis
- 2.7 Alternatives Considered but Eliminated
- 2.8 Summary of Impact Assessment

CHAPTER 3 SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

- 3.1 Introduction
- 3.2 CALFED Programmatic Environmental Impact Report/Statement
 - Localized Impacts of Proposed Action of CALFED Programmatic Environmental Impact Report/Statement
- 3.3 Environmental Impact Report for Tehama County General Plan
- 3.4 Environmental Impact Report for Glenn County General Plan
- 3.5 Environmental Impact Report for Colusa County General Plan
- 3.6 Environmental Impact Report for City of XXXX General Plans
- 3.7 Environmental Impact Report for XXXXX

CHAPTER 4 WATER SUPPLY

- 4.1 Introduction
- 4.2 Water Supply
 - State Water Project
 - Central Valley Project
 - Local Water Projects
 - Affected Environment
 - Environmental Consequences
 - No Action Alternative (as compared to Existing Conditions)
 - Alternative 1 (as compared to Existing Conditions and No Action Alt)
 - Alternative 2 (as compared to Existing Conditions and No Action Alt)
 - Alternative 3 (as compared to Existing Conditions and No Action Alt)
 - Alternative 4 (as compared to Existing Conditions and No Action Alt)

CHAPTER 5 SURFACE WATER RESOURCES AND QUALITY

- 5.1 Introduction
- 5.2 Local Surface Water Resources and Quality
 - Affected Environment
 - Environmental Consequences
- 5.3 Regional Surface Water Resources and Quality

Affected Environment
Environmental Consequences

CHAPTER 6 GROUNDWATER RESOURCES AND GROUNDWATER QUALITY

- 6.1 Introduction
- 6.2 Local Groundwater Resources and Groundwater Quality
 - Affected Environment
 - Environmental Consequences
- 6.3 Regional Groundwater Resources and Groundwater Quality
 - Affected Environment
 - Environmental Consequences

CHAPTER 7 LAND USE AND DEMOGRAPHICS

- 7.1 Introduction
- 7.2 Local Land Use and Demographics
 - Affected Environment
 - Environmental Consequences
- 7.3 Regional Land Use and Demographics
 - Affected Environment
 - Environmental Consequences

CHAPTER 8 AQUATIC RESOURCES

- 8.1 Introduction
- 8.2 Local Aquatic Resources
 - Affected Environment
 - Environmental Consequences
- 8.3 Regional Aquatic Resources
 - Affected Environment
 - Environmental Consequences

CHAPTER 9 TERRESTRIAL BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

- 9.1 Introduction
- 9.2 Local Terrestrial Biological Resources
 - Affected Environment
 - Environmental Consequences
- 9.3 Regional Terrestrial Biological Resources
 - Affected Environment
 - Environmental Consequences

CHAPTER 10 VEGETATION

- 10.1 Introduction
- 10.2 Vegetation
 - Affected Environment
 - Environmental Consequences

CHAPTER 11 SACRAMENTO RIVER GEOMORPHOLOGY

- 11.1 Introduction
- 11.2 Local Sacramento River Geomorphology
 - Affected Environment
 - Environmental Consequences
- 11.3 Regional Sacramento River Geomorphology
 - Affected Environment
 - Environmental Consequences

CHAPTER 12 CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL RESOURCES

- 12.1 Introduction
- 12.2 Local Cultural and Historical Resources
 - Affected Environment

Environmental Consequences
12.3 Regional Cultural and Historical Resources
Affected Environment
Environmental Consequences

CHAPTER 13 HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

13.1 Introduction
13.2 Hazards and Hazardous Materials
Affected Environment
Environmental Consequences

CHAPTER 14 AIR QUALITY

14.1 Introduction
14.2 Local Air Quality
Affected Environment
Environmental Consequences
14.3 Regional Air Quality
Affected Environment
Environmental Consequences

CHAPTER 15 GEOLOGY AND SOILS

15.1 Introduction
15.2 Geology and Soils
Affected Environment
Environmental Consequences
15.3 Geomorphology
Affected Environment
Environmental Consequences

CHAPTER 16 NOISE

16.1 Introduction
16.2 Noise
Affected Environment
Environmental Consequences

CHAPTER 17 RECREATION

17.1 Introduction
17.2 Local Recreation
Affected Environment
Environmental Consequences
17.3 Regional Recreation
Affected Environment
Environmental Consequences

CHAPTER 18 NAVIGATION, TRANSPORTATION, AND TRAFFIC

18.1 Introduction
18.2 Local Navigation, Transportation, and Traffic
Affected Environment
Environmental Consequences
18.3 Regional Navigation, Transportation and Traffic
Affected Environment
Environmental Consequences

CHAPTER 19 INDIAN TRUST ASSETS

19.1 Introduction
19.2 Local Indian Trust Assets
Affected Environment
Environmental Consequences

- 19.3 Regional Indian Trust Assets
 - Affected Environment
 - Environmental Consequences

CHAPTER 20 SOCIOECONOMICS

- 20.1 Introduction
- 20.2 Local Socioeconomics
 - Affected Environment
 - Environmental Consequences
- 20.3 Regional Socioeconomics
 - Affected Environment
 - Environmental Consequences

CHAPTER 21 ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

- 21.1 Introduction
- 21.2 Local Environmental Justice
 - Affected Environment
 - Environmental Consequences
- 21.3 Regional Environmental Justice
 - Affected Environment
 - Environmental Consequences

CHAPTER 22 VISUAL RESOURCES (AESTHETICS, LIGHT, GLARE)

- 22.1 Introduction
- 22.2 Visual Resources (Aesthetics, light, glare)
 - Affected Environment
 - Environmental Consequences

CHAPTER 23 POWER PRODUCTION AND ENERGY

- 23.1 Introduction
- 23.2 Local Power Production and Energy
 - Affected Environment
 - Environmental Consequences
- 23.3 Regional Power Production and Energy
 - Affected Environment
 - Environmental Consequences

CHAPTER 24 PUBLIC SERVICES AND UTILITIES

- 24.1 Introduction
- 24.2 Local Public Services and Utilities
 - Affected Environment
 - Environmental Consequences
- 24.3 Regional Public Services and Utilities
 - Affected Environment
 - Environmental Consequences

CHAPTER 25 FLOOD CONTROL

- 25.1 Introduction
- 25.2 Local Flood Control
 - Affected Environment
 - Environmental Consequences
- 25.3 Regional Flood Control
 - Affected Environment
 - Environmental Consequences

CHAPTER 26 SHORT-TERM USES VERSUS LONG-TERM PRODUCTIVITY

CHAPTER 27 IRREVERSIBLE OR IRRETRIEVABLE COMMITMENTS

CHAPTER 28 GROWTH-INDUCING IMPACTS

- 28.1 Introduction
- 28.2 Local Growth-Inducing Impacts
 - Affected Environment
 - Environmental Consequences
- 28.3 Regional Growth-Inducing Impacts
 - Affected Environment
 - Environmental Consequences

CHAPTER 29 CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

- Introduction
- CALFED Implementation
- Water Transfers
- SB 1086 Process
- General Plan Revisions
- South Delta Improvements Program
- Conjunctive Management Plans
- Shasta Enlargement
- In-Delta Storage
- Los Vaqueros Expansion
- Upper San Joaquin River Storage
- Trinity River Operations
- Red Bluff Diversion Dam Fish Passage
- M&T Pumping Plant and Chico WWTP outfall
- Stony Creek Biological Opinion
- Battle Creek Restoration
- Deer and Mill Creeks Restoration
- Phase 8: Short-term and Long-term
- San Joaquin River Master Plan
- Upper/Lower Yuba River
- Sacramento River Conservation Area
- Colusa Basin Drain Master Plan
- CVPIA (b)(2) and (b)(3) Implementation
- Governor's Drought Panel/Environmental Water Account EIRs
- US Bureau of Reclamation Water Supply Improvement Plan
- TMDL Impaired Water Bodies List and Implementation
- Bulletin 160-03 Implementation
- Fisheries Issues
- Yield Increase Plan
- CVP Contract and Agreement Renewals
- Oroville FERC Relicensing Process
- Sacramento-San Joaquin River Basins Comprehensive Study

CHAPTER 30 SUMMARY OF PERMITS AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE

CHAPTER 31 ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITMENT LIST

CHAPTER 32 CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

- Introduction
- Public Involvement
- Consultation and Coordination with Other Agencies
- National Environmental Policy Act
- California Environmental Quality Act
- Clean Water Act
- Endangered Species Act

Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act
National Historic Preservation Act
Indian Trust Assets
Indian Sacred Sites on Federal Land
Environmental Justice
State, Area-wide, and Local Plan and Program Consistency
Floodplain Management
Wetlands Protection
Wild and Scenic Rivers Act
Farmland Protection Policy Act and Farmland Preservation
Clean Air Act
Safe Drinking Water Act

LIST OF ATTACHMENTS

ATTACHMENT A	LIST OF PREPARERS
ATTACHMENT B	BIBLIOGRAPHY
ATTACHMENT C	ACRONYMS, ABBREVIATIONS, AND METRIC CONVERSIONS
ATTACHMENT D	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
ATTACHMENT E	SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES IN STUDY AREA

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Appendix K: Comment Letters Received During Scoping Process

People and organizations that sent comment letters:

- The Bay Institute of San Francisco, Gary Bobker
- Jeff Borland
- Sasha Borland
- CA Department of Food and Agriculture, Steve Shaffer
- California Waterfowl, Mark Hennelly
- Colusa County Economic Development Corporation, William R. Waite
- Colusa County, County Administrative Office, David J. Shoemaker
- John and Nita Connelly
- Walter Cook
- DeltaKeeper, Bill Jennings
- Friends of the River, Steven L. Evans
- John Garino and Janice Garino
- Kenneth Gilmore
- Haskell Environmental Research Studies Center, Brenda Brandon
- Mary Anne Houx, Supervisor Third District
- K. Maurice Johannessen
- Bill Jones, Secretary of State
- Kern County Water Agency, Thomas N. Clark
- Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, Timothy H. Quinn
- John S. Mills
- John L. Morton
- Northern California Power Agency, Jane Cirrincione
- Edward Owens
- Redding Electric Utility, James C. Feider
- Richard Riolo
- Sacramento Municipal Utility District, Paul Olmstead
- Sacramento River Preservation Trust, John Merz
- Brent Shanahan
- Shasta County Board of Supervisors, Patricia A. "Trish" Clarke
- State Water Contractors, John C. Coburn
- U.S. Department of Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Amy L. Clutschke (sp?)
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Laura Fujii
- Tyrone Wolatt



Celebrating 20 years of protecting and restoring the
Bay-Delta-Rivers ecosystem, from the Sierra to the sea.

by fax and by mail

January 25, 2002

Scott Woodland
Department of Water Resources
Division of Planning and Local Assistance
P.O. Box 942836
Sacramento, CA 94236-0001

RE: NORTH OF THE DELTA OFFSTREAM STORAGE

Dear Mr. Woodland,

This letter represents the comments of the Bay Institute regarding the Notice of Preparation (NOP) of an Environmental Impact Report/Statement (EIR/S) for the development of offstream water storage north of the Sacramento/San Joaquin Delta.

Tiering of environmental documentation

The NOP states that since this EIR/S will be tiered from the CALFED Programmatic EIS/R, the scope of alternatives will be limited to issues directly associated with water storage located north of the Delta. We are concerned that the EIR/S may rely on estimated benefits of water use efficiency, water transfers and groundwater storage contained in the CALFED Programmatic EIR/S (PEIR/S).

The Bay Institute was deeply involved in the development of the CALFED Water Use Efficiency Program; we know from our experience that CALFEDs success in this area was based on using a flexible and adaptive outcome-based approach rather than resolving disagreements over the potential yield of implementing new water use efficiency management measures. In short, CALFEDs estimates of potential water use efficiency yield are neither reliable nor in and of themselves significant to the design and success of the Water Use Efficiency Program.

The CALFED Record of Decision acknowledges this when it states (p. 64) that given the uncertainties of implementing [the Water Use Efficiency Program] it will be appropriate to carefully evaluate the ongoing progress of the Program

as it gets off the ground. Further, at the end of the first four years of Stage 1, CALFED Agencies may increase or reduce the targeted conservation goals to reflect actual implementation experience, redirect investments and/or introduce new programs as necessary and appropriate.

These caveats apply equally to the potential yield and availability of water from water transfers and groundwater storage. Estimated benefits of these three alternative water management options contained in the CALFED PEIR/S should not be used as the sole basis for designing alternatives to north of Delta offstream storage. Additional analysis is required, and new information incorporated as it becomes available.

With regard to groundwater storage, it is unclear whether the CALFED Integrated Storage Investigations groundwater/conjunctive use program will generate sufficient information in and of itself to meet the needs of the proposed EIR/S. DWR should consider whether the scope and resources of the ISI program need to be augmented in order to provide additional data to the EIR/S preparers for developing and evaluating potential groundwater storage and conjunctive use alternatives.

Potential environmental effects

Offstream water storage north of the Delta is likely to cause significant adverse impacts on the abundance and distribution of endangered species and habitats at the storage site. Diversion of a significant percentage of the flow of the Sacramento River, especially during critical winter and springtime periods, is also likely to cause significant adverse impacts to fluvial geomorphic processes, river flows, floodplain inundation and estuarine habitat conditions on the mainstem Sacramento River, the Delta and San Francisco Bay. The EIS/R should fully evaluate how the alternatives considered will affect the attainment of all relevant ecosystem protection and restoration objectives, including but not limited to those contained in the following documents:

- The narrative salmon protection objective contained in the 1995 Bay-Delta Water Quality Plan.
- The recovery targets and recommended actions contained in the Delta Native Fishes Recovery Plan.
- The ecosystem restoration objectives, targets and actions for all ecological zones of the Sacramento Valley, the Delta, Suisun Bay, and San Francisco Bay, contained in the CALFED Ecosystem Restoration Program Plan (CALFED Final Programmatic EIS/R, July 2000).

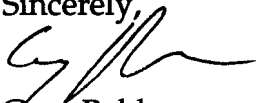
Scott Woodland
January 25, 2002
Page 3

- The Sacramento River and Delta habitat protection objectives contained in the Anadromous Fish Restoration Plan and related documents pursuant to the Central Valley Project Improvement Act.

DWR should defer to the CALFED Science Program and the CALFED Ecosystem Restoration Program for guidance on determining potential environmental effects, defining thresholds for significant effects, and evaluating avoidance and mitigation strategies.

Thank you for considering our comments. If you have any questions, please call me at (415) 506-0150.

Sincerely,



Gary Bobker
Program Director

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Jeff Borland
Orland, Ca. 95963

Scott Woodland
Senior Engineer
(916) 651-9289

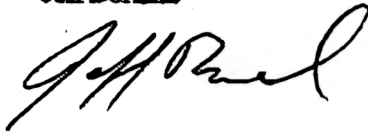
Dear Mr. Woodland:

I live and work on a ranch in the area of the proposed Thomas-Newville dam. I work on the land every day. The land is beautiful, but brittle. It is easily affected by any changes in the natural environment. Construction of the dam would have a devastating impact on the environment and animal/fish habitat, which could not be fully cured.

I oppose the building of the Thomas-Newville dam.

Yours truly,

Jeff Borland



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Sasha Borland
Orland, Ca. 95963

Scott Woodland
Senior Engineer
(916) 651-9289

Dear Mr. Woodland:

I am a mother and housewife. I am raising my two small children just under the base of the proposed Thomas-Newville dam. My ancestors are buried in the Newville cemetery which will be flooded out by the dam. The cemetery is historic, containing the remains of James Kendrick, among many others. The only road will be underwater, requiring a new road cutting our historic ranch in half. That ranch has had only 3 owners since 1852, including James Kendrick. The Tehama County Recorder's Office only began keeping records in 1854! The house in which I live is the original James Kendrick house built in 1854. It has two-foot stone walls and hand-blown glass windows, the originals! This house would be torn down as part of a new, replacement road.

I strongly oppose the building of Thomas-Newville dam.

Sincerely,

Sasha Borland



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DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

WILLIAM (BILL) J. LYONS, JR., Secretary

1220 N Street, Room 452
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 653-5658
Fax: (916) 657-5017



December 6, 2001

Mr. Scott Woodland
Department of Water Resources
Division of Planning and Local Assistance
P.O. Box 942836
Sacramento, CA 94296-0001

Subject: Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the North of Delta Offstream Storage (CALFED) – **SCH #2001112009**

Dear Mr. Woodland:

The California Department of Food and Agriculture (Department) has reviewed the NOP for the referenced CALFED project. The Department is responsible for the protection and promotion of California agriculture. We offer the following recommendations for the DEIR with respect to potential project impacts on agricultural resources.

Project Setting

The DEIR should describe the project and project setting in enough detail to allow an assessment of project impacts on agricultural land and water, including:

1. A description of alternative water conveyance systems and routes of each alternative reservoir site;
2. A description of the agricultural land quality of the alternative project sites and conveyance routes, based on the California Department of Conservation's Important Farmland Map definitions, Williamson Act definitions, or the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Land Capability Classifications;
3. A characterization of agricultural crop production and land uses in the area of each of the project alternative sites and conveyance configurations, including crop type, yield and sales values;
4. Sources of water supplies serving agricultural uses in the project's alternative areas; and,
5. Sources of water to be used to fill the proposed alternative off-stream storage facilities; i.e., will water be diverted from the Sacramento River during high flows when there will be little impact on agricultural water users, during high water use months, or both?

Mr. Scott Woodland
December 7, 2001
Page Two

Project Impacts

The DEIR should assess the comparative significance of impacts on agricultural land of each project alternative using the California Land Evaluation and Site Assessment (LESA) model suggested in CEQA and its guidelines. In addition, the DEIR should address the following potential impacts for each project alternative:

1. Loss of agricultural land by agricultural land category (e.g., Prime Farmland, grazing land, etc.) due to the reservoirs as well as alternative conveyance system routes;
2. Impacts of water diversion for reservoirs on current agricultural water supplies; and,
3. Impacts of project on future agricultural water supplies in terms of quantity, quality and reliability.

Cumulative Impacts

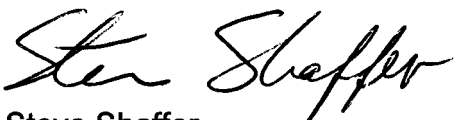
1. Cumulative impacts of project on water supplies; and,
2. Cumulative impacts of project on agricultural land conversion in agricultural region of the project; i.e., how does the project contribute to past, current and foreseeable conversions of cultivated farmland or high quality grazing lands on the west side of the Sacramento Valley?

Mitigation Measures

Mitigation measures that would avoid, lessen or offset the impacts of the project on agricultural land and water resources and uses should be considered in the DEIR.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the project's NOP. If we can be of assistance in addressing any of the issues raised in this letter, please call me at (916) 653-5658.

Sincerely,



Steve Shaffer
Director, Office of Agriculture and Environmental Policy



February 6, 2002

Conserving California's waterfowl, wetlands, and waterfowling heritage.

Scott Woodland
Department of Water Resources' Division of Planning and Local Assistance
P.O. Box 942836
Sacramento, CA 94236-0001

RE: Scoping Comments on the North of the Delta Offstream Storage Program

Dear Mr. Woodland:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the North of Delta Offstream Storage Program.

The California Waterfowl Association (CWA) supports the development of new, off-stream water storage facilities in northern California, including the proposed Sites Reservoir. Such facilities will not only help to prevent devastating flooding to agricultural communities in the Sacramento Valley, which occurred all too frequently in the 1990s, but also increase the State's overall supply of water. This is critical considering projected long-term demand for water resources in California, including supplies necessary to fulfill *offstream* environmental water needs. In particular, additional developed water supplies will be needed for California's ongoing wetland restoration and enhancement efforts.

California has lost over 90% of its historic, naturally occurring wetlands. Due to permanent changes to the State's hydrology, we must today artificially irrigate much of our remaining wetland habitat base. Essentially, wetland conservationists depend on developed water supplies to annually fulfill the habitat needs of nesting and wintering waterfowl, as well as numerous other wetland-dependent species—many of which are also threatened and endangered. In fact, over half of all listed species are, in some way, wetland dependent. New reservoir storage will not only serve the growing water needs of private wetlands in the Central Valley (which constitute a significant portion of our overall habitat base), but also help ensure that wetland water supply requirements called for in the federal Central Valley Project Improvement Act for public refuges and other lands are fulfilled.



**California
Waterfowl
Association**

4630 Northgate Blvd.
Suite 150
Sacramento, CA 95834

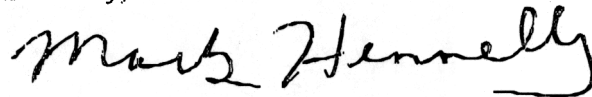
TEL: (916) 648-1406
FAX: (916) 648-1665

CWA also strongly urges the Department of Water Resources, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, and other public agencies to maximize hunting opportunities, particularly for waterfowl, on their reservoirs within California. Unfortunately, hunting opportunities continue to be lost throughout the State. In particular, fees for hunting on private land are high, while costs for joining a high-quality, private club can be prohibitive for most sportsmen. Other key factors, such as the continued loss of habitat and farmland, as well as the steady rise in political clout of urban areas, have recently combined to further restrict hunting activities here.

Nevertheless, it is important to note the substantial contribution that hunters continue to make to wildlife conservation through self-imposed taxes, per the federal Pittman-Roberston Act, and stamp and license fees. Concerned hunters and other sportsmen also conduct countless fundraising events each year specifically to protect habitat and restore wildlife populations. In addition, revenues generated by hunting benefit the U.S. economy. A recent report by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) entitled *Banking on Nature: The Economic Benefits to Local Communities of National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) Visitation* found that NWR visitor spending—much of which is driven by hunters—generated \$401.1 million in sales at the local level. Furthermore, a separate 1996 USFWS study found that hunting generates 704,600 jobs in the U.S., representing almost 1% of the entire civilian labor force and contributing \$22.1 billion annually to the national economy. By providing new venues for hunting on public reservoirs, state and federal agencies will help to ensure that these critical monies continue to flow.

CWA looks forward to working with you to help fulfill critical environmental water needs for wetlands and waterfowl habitat, as well as to create new, much-needed recreational opportunities for California's hunting community.

Sincerely,



Mark Hennelly, Deputy Director
Government Affairs

Cc: The Hon. Doug Ose, U.S. House of Representatives
The Hon. Dick Dickerson, California State Assembly
The Hon. Keith Hansen, Glenn County Board of Supervisors
The Hon. Forrest Sprague, Glenn County Board of Supervisors
The Hon. Bill Waite, Colusa County Board of Supervisors
David Guy, Northern California Water Association
Van Tenney, Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District

Economic Development Corporation

2880 Niagara Avenue
(530) 458-3028

(800) 440-3465

P.O. Box 1077
FAX (530) 458-5080

Colusa, California 95932
www.colusacountyedc.org

January 21, 2002

Mr. Scott D Woodland P.E.
Senior Engineer W.R.
Department of Water Resources
Division of Planning and Local Assistance
P.O. Box 942836
Sacramento, California 94236-0001

Dear Mr. Woodland:

The Colusa County Economic Development Corporation Board of Directors does hereby endorse the need for offstream storage and the development of the Sites Reservoir Project and/or Colusa Reservoir Project. At their regular scheduled monthly meeting the Board unanimously recommended that we submit comments to the Department of Water Resources on this important project for the Sacramento Valley and the State of California.

Additional comments that arose during the Boards' discussion were as follows:

1. The need for a complete and detailed study of the transportation routes to and from the community of Stonyford and Century Ranch. These communities will grow in coming years at a much faster rate than in the past, therefore we feel that all developing transportation routes should reflect a greater need in the near future than at present. The Board believes that the major access route should be in Colusa County and lead to the City of Maxwell. Other transportation routes to access recreational sites should also be planned to accommodate a large number of visitors due to the close proximity to major population areas in the northern portion of our state.
2. Recreational facilities should be developed to their fullest extent at the reservoir. The growth in population in Upstate California, Sacramento and San Francisco will create additional demand for state recreational areas. The development of these recreation sites should be guaranteed and they should be maintained by the California State Parks system.
3. The effect of rising ground water levels should be carefully studied. Colusa and Glenn Counties are now and always will be agricultural based economies. Rising ground water could effect the land adjacent to the foothills and the crops grown in the western portion of the valley. Any negative effect could damage our county economies.

Again, we would like to express our endorsement for this important offstream storage project. If there are any question please contact me at the above location.

Sincerely,



William R. Waite
Chairmen

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COLUSA COUNTY
COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

DAVID J. SHOEMAKER
County Administrator
Personnel Director
Purchasing Agent

520 Market Street, Suite 3
Colusa, California 95932
(530)458-0423
(530)458-0425 fax

January 23, 2002

Mr. Scott Woodland
Department of Water Resources
Division of Planning and local Assistance
Post Office Box 942836
Sacramento, California 94236-0001

Dear Mr. Woodland:

Thank you for the public forum which you recently held on the, North of the Delta Offstream Storage Project, in Colusa County. It was very informative and helpful for the members of this county to hear and be heard on a topic which will bring such great changes to our area.

Enclosed, you will find a listing of the issues and concerns of the Colusa County Board of Supervisors, their constituents and the various Departments within the county. It is our hope that this information will be helpful to you and your committee as it moves ahead with this project.

Yours truly,



David J. Shoemaker, CAO

Enclosures: 1

ala

North Delta Off Stream Storage – Issues – 1/22/02

Fiscal -

Loss of Colusa County agricultural land – contact Bob Alvernaz 473-2259
Potential for recreation activities surrounding the proposed Sites Reservoir
Work related income for Colusa County during course of construction of project.
Potential ancillary and auxiliary economic development in Colusa County.
Potential tourism income for Colusa County.

With influx of tourists and new home owners, the branches of the Colusa County library in Stonyford and Maxwell would need to grow. These are the two fastest growing libraries in the county. However, increased sales tax revenue and/or impact fees from construction could be beneficial.

Encourage our local policy makers to insure that recreational aspects are fully considered in the overall plan and that local merchants are able to successfully compete for concessions.

Staff time will be needed to provide environmental analyses and updating the land use documents to provide for the Sites Reservoir. Extensive, drawn out public hearings. Meetings and communications with environmentalists, stakeholders, members of the public and other, must be allotted appropriate time in any time study analysis of costs.

Farming –

Any water diversions from the Sacramento River, at all, would impact farming.
Incentives for our farmers to install electric pumps and eliminate conventional fuel type engines at pumping stations. This would decrease air pollution.

Environmental –

Flooding -

Mitigation of Colusa County main open flood potential and Sacramento River flood potential downstream of Sites Reservoir outlet pumps.

Ground water –

What would be the level in western Colusa County for ag and domestic wells.
Potential source of ag and domestic irrigation water in Colusa County.
As in all off-stream storage facilities, exhaustive geological and engineering studies need to be completed to ensue that private property owners in the vicinity, or down-stream from the reservoir, are not negatively impacted through changes in the depth of the water table or other conditions that might affect their ability to farm.

It would be good to negotiate a portion of the 1.9 million acre feet of water to remain in Colusa County, the county of origin.

Endangered Species –

Potential habitat for endangered species in this part of California. The Sites Reservoir could be home for aquatic or amphibian animals.

Roads –

The quality of roads to be developed around the lake for deliveries to the Stonyford area.

It will be necessary to relocate a portion of the Sites-Lodoga Road. The preferred route of relocation would be to the south side of the lake and tie into the existing County Road in the area of Howard Creek or Leesville-Lodoga Road. This will increase the length by 4 miles which will be added to the County maintained mileage system and will eventually result in increased maintenance costs.

Political –

Potential for political partnerships and liaisons with purchasers and users of Sites Reservoir water.

Consider a Joint Powers Agreement or some type of agreement to assure ourselves of a vote, or at least a say, in who gets excess water and especially its destination.

Some type of an agreement that gives a return to our county's residents on power rates.

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Scott Woodland
Senior Engineer
(916) 651-9289

Dear Mr. Woodland:

Our family owns the Quiet Hills Ranch. The ranch contains some of the oldest structures in Tehama County, if not in fact the very oldest. The required road replacement and relocation would not only separate the main house from the balance of the ranch, but would also result in the destruction of the historic James Kendrick residence built in 1854.

My family ancestors are buried in the Newville cemetery. A stone commemorates my great-grandfather who graduated from the very first law school class of the University of California, served on the Board of Regents, nominated a candidate for President of the United States at the Chicago convention. On the day of his death, the entire court system in San Francisco closed early in his honor.

The equally famous James Kendrick is buried in that cemetery. Mr. Kendrick was a central figure in the establishment of California as a State in 1850.

That historic cemetery would be underwater if the Thomes-Newville dam were built.

The migration route of a significant California deer herd would be destroyed. Irreplaceable cultural resources would be lost. The impact on fish, salamanders and other aquatic species would be devastating.

We strongly oppose construction of the Thomes-Newville dam.

Sincerely,

Nita Connelly


John Connelly

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**WALTER COOK
Attorney at Law (Ret.)
42 Northwood Commons
Chico, CA 95973-7214**

Tel: 530/345-5474
Fax 530/345-5474
Wcmc95@aol.com

January 24, 2002

Scott Woodland
Department Of water Resources
Division Planning and Local Assistance
P.O. Box 942836
Sacramento, CA 94236-0001

Via Fax: 916/651-9289 *wc*

Re: Scoping: Sites Reservoir Study

Dear Scott Woodland:

FOLLOWING ARE MY SCOPING COMMENTS CONCERNING MATTERS THAT SHOULD BE THOROUGHLY STUDIED AS A PREREQUISITE TO ANY DECISION TO CONSTRUCT OR NOT CONSTRUCT THE SITES RESERVOIR:

- 1 The ultimate users of the water to be stored must be clearly identified, including the water quantities and proportion of the stored water to be supplied to each category of user.
2. The amount of the project financial costs and maintenance to be paid by the users, both as initial capital, and annual water usage, must be clearly identified.
- 3 The amount of initial and ongoing funding to be supplied by the federal government and by the State and local governments, must also be clearly identified
4. The study should determine the economic and other impacts of the reservoir on the existing residents that will need to be relocated by the reservoir.
5. The study should also determine the economic and other impacts on the loss of land productivity, tax base, business, and improvements, which will result from the reservoir.
6. The study must determine whether substantial and mandatory water conservation requirements on all the prospective users of the stored water need to be required as a condition of use, as well as the extent to which such conservation will negate the need for the reservoir.
7. Eliminating water deliveries for water intensive crops, such as rice, should be considered as an alternative to the reservoir.
8. The environmental and other impacts of modification in the flow regimes of the Sacramento River, must be considered, including the reduction in winter flows,

and the increase in summer flows which will be occasioned by the operation of the reservoir.

9. Any environmental, economic and other impacts on all downstream needs for Sacramento River water at the various times of the year must be considered.
10. The earthquake potential for the area of the reservoir, as well as other areas which might be impacted by the reservoir, must be thoroughly studied.
11. Any adverse impacts of the project on Sacramento River anadromous fish must be thoroughly studied.
12. It must be determined whether prospective water deliveries will be made to Southern California as part of the State Water Plan, and whether stored water at Sites reservoir will free up other water to be used to enhance increased development and sprawl in the California deserts.
13. Will more responsible growth in California, including concentrated development and water conservation obviate the need for additional water to be stored at Sites.
14. Of course, all adverse environmental impacts must be considered, including impacts on fish, wildlife, vegetation, as well as air and water quality.
15. All adverse cumulative project impacts, including those resulting from other existing and proposed reservoirs, water flow and delivery modifications, water needs and uses in the Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers and their tributaries and watersheds, and also including the Central Valley and the Delta.

Yours truly



WALTER COOK

Note: This letter as first faxed contained the date 1/24/01, rather than the correct date of 1/24/02. WC. The letter with the correct date was sent by followup fax on 1/24/02, WC. *wc*

DeltaKeeper

A PROJECT OF SAN FRANCISCO BAYKEEPER

15 February 2002

Scott D. Woodland
California Department of Water Resources
P.O. Box 942836
Sacramento, CA 94236-0001

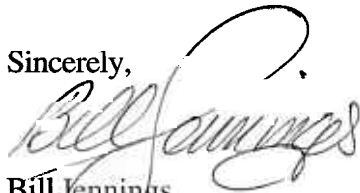
Re: Scoping comments for the North of Delta Offstream Storage EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Woodland:

DeltaKeeper, WaterKeepers Northern California and the California Sportfishing Protection Alliance share and incorporate by reference the scoping comments for the North of Delta Offstream Storage EIS/EIR submitted by Friends of the River.

Please include us on any lists receiving information concerning the proposed projects and provide a copy of the draft EIR/EIS when it becomes available. Thank You.

Sincerely,



Bill Jennings
DeltaKeeper

Chairman, California Sportfishing Protection Alliance
3536 Rainier Avenue
Stockton, CA 95204
Tel: 209-464-5090
Fax: 209-464-5174
E-mail: deltakeep@aol.com

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FRIENDS
OF THE
RIVER

Steven L. Evans
Conservation Director
Friends of the River
915 20th Street
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 442-3155, Ext. 221

January 25, 2002

Mr. Scott D. Woodland
California Department of Water Resources
P.O. Box 942836
Sacramento, CA 94236-0001

Re: **Scoping comments for the North of Delta Offstream Storage EIS/EIR**

Dear Mr. Woodland:

Thank you for soliciting public scoping comments for the North of Delta Storage EIS/EIR. Our comments are arranged in various subsections below.

The Basics

The EIS/EIR should provide some very basic, but as yet unavailable or unreliable information, concerning offstream storage. This basic information includes:

- How much real water will be reliably produced?
- At what cost?
- Who will receive the water?
- Who will pay?

Potential uses of water from offstream storage – environment, agriculture, urban – often conflict with each other. In fact, the potential uses in any specific category may also conflict. Sacramento Valley farmers compete for water with San Joaquin Valley farmers. The list of downstream cities interested in increasing their water supplies is more than the potential yield, raising questions of priority and need. For example, offstream storage during the winter could adversely impact salmon smolt escapement while improving Delta water quality in the summer.

Current yield estimates for offstream storage do not take into consideration likely diversion constraints required to protect the environment. Obviously the less water the project can divert, the more costly the water that is reliably produced. The NRDC already estimates that water from the Sites project could cost as high as \$450/acre foot. This estimate is far beyond the price agriculture can afford, and it may be too high for the taxpayers to pay for environmental uses. Although cities may afford water at \$450/acre foot, there may be other more competitive alternatives available.

Basic CALFED principles, including "no redirected impacts" and "beneficiaries pay," can be used to help answer these questions. The EIS/EIR should clearly delineate how much water is reliably produced, at what cost, who will receive the water, and who will pay. Project costs and water costs must take into account environmental constraints as well as mitigation costs.

Cost Sharing

Depending on its size, the Sites project could cost taxpayers as much as \$450 to \$820 million to build. Diversion facilities, pumping plants, as well as new and/or expanded canals could cost taxpayers another \$50 to \$400 million to build. These estimates do not include interest or the cost of environmental mitigation. Through the year 2002, the California Department of Water Resources will spend nearly \$25 million for its on-going studies of the Sites project.

A basic CALFED principal is that those who receive benefits shall pay for the benefits. Local irrigation districts in the Sacramento Valley are the most likely beneficiaries of the Sites project. And yet, no local funding has been provided for Sites studies. There is currently no cost sharing agreement between the State and local water interests to ensure that direct beneficiaries contribute monetarily to either studies or the construction of the project.

As recently as ten years ago, the Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District looked at the Sites project and chose not to pursue the project on due to high costs. But local interest in the project remains high, apparently as long as public funds remain available. Obviously the total cost of the project, and the cost of the water produced, is pertinent to who receives the water. Determination of project feasibility in the EIS/EIR should consider who can and is willing to cost share.

Alternatives

The range of alternatives considered in the NOI/NOP is inadequate. They basically are limited to storage or no storage. The Other Possible Alternatives section is particularly weak, since it apparently includes only increased storage in Shasta reservoir and conjunctive use. NEPA and CEQA, as well as Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, require consideration of real and feasible alternatives. The EIS/EIR should consider aggressive groundwater storage, mandatory efficiency and conservation programs in the project service area, mandatory measurement of water and pricing based on amount used, land fallowing, and transition to less water intensive crops. The potential

high cost of the project may make even expensive alternatives such as desalinization competitive. All these alternatives should be fully considered in the EIS/EIR.

Offstream Storage Diversions

Significant water diversions from the Sacramento River would be required to fill moderate to large offstream storage reservoirs in the western Sacramento Valley. These diversions could result in substantial adverse impacts on the river ecosystem.

The Sacramento River ecosystem remains relatively healthy because it is one of the few major rivers in California that still retains most of its water and some of its natural hydrology. According to CALFED, water diversions have reduced flows in the Sacramento River by 35%, as compared to the 80% reduction in flows experienced by the highly degraded San Joaquin River. As a consequence, the Sacramento River still sustains all five native runs of salmon and steelhead (although several of these runs are in decline), and supports healthy but significantly reduced riparian habitat utilized by many sensitive, threatened, and endangered terrestrial species.

Offstream diversions from the Sacramento River will reduce high flows, which are necessary to sustain the erosion and deposition processes that support and recreate the river's riparian and aquatic habitats. Maintaining this "meandering" river ecosystem is a major goal of CALFED's ecosystem restoration program. One CALFED white paper suggests that maintaining high flows over 55,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) may be needed to sustain river meander. But little is currently known about this important ecological mechanism and additional studies are required to definitively identify the specific flows needed to sustain the ecosystem.

The ecological impacts of diversions at lower flows must also be considered. Current computer modeling is based on the assumption that any flow over a minimum fish flow of 3,000 cfs may be diverted to fill the reservoir. Use of this diversion threshold can significantly reduce moderate to low flows in the river. For example, one diversion scenario would reduce the average monthly flow of the Sacramento River as little as 14% during the month of January, but as much as 67% during the month of April.

March and April is a critical time of the year in the riparian habitat regeneration cycle. During this month, the first line of new riparian vegetation is established along the river's high water mark. As flow declines through this period, new lines of vegetation are established, creating a varied and multi-aged habitat that supports the diverse needs of numerous species and responds with elasticity to the river's dynamic energy. Diversions to offstream storage during spring months could seriously impact this ecological process, with significant impacts on the long term health and maintenance of the river's overall riparian ecosystem.

Although offstream storage diversions have been repeatedly characterized as 5,000 cfs, the source and amount diverted varies significantly in the flow models considered to date. DWR's most recent North of Delta Progress Report (July 2000) displays 35 diversion scenarios, which include the use of existing and new diversions from the Sacramento River; new diversions from Thomas Creek, Stony Creek, and the Colusa

Basin Drain; as well as direct diversions from existing reservoirs on Stony Creek. The total amount of these diversions range from 3,000 to 8,000 cfs.

Each diversion scenario impacts various segments of the Sacramento River and its tributaries in different ways, but the cumulative impact is the removal of a 3,000 to 8,000 cfs of flow from the system at specific times, including ultimately the lower Sacramento River, the Delta, and San Francisco Bay.

Diversion impacts to the Sacramento River's riparian habitat and river meander should be quantified in the EIS/EIR. Diversion impacts on all segments of the Sacramento Rivers, its tributaries, the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, and San Francisco Bay must also be quantified. Instream flow studies using accepted methodologies should be conducted for all affected streams, including the Sacramento River, Thomes Creek, and Stony Creek.

Diversion Facilities

Diversions to fill the offstream storage could utilize existing facilities, including the Red Bluff diversion dam and the Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District's diversion facility, and/or new diversion facilities. Millions of dollars of public and private funds have been invested to make these existing diversion facilities more fish friendly. But in general, fish biologists believe that all diversion facilities – even the most fish friendly – have some adverse impact on migrating and resident fish species. The impact of increased diversions at existing facilities on sensitive, threatened, and endangered salmon and steelhead stocks should be quantified in the EIS/EIR.

Various locations for a new diversion facility are under consideration. One way to avoid or reduce flow reduction impacts on river meander is to build a new diversion facility sufficiently downstream to avoid the segment of the river upstream of the flood control levee system. New diversion sites apparently under consideration include one downstream of Chico Landing and another near Moulton weir. However, the impact of a new diversion within the levee segment on migrating and resident fish species remains an important factor because downstream sites increase the number of distinct salmonid populations that are impacted. For example, a new diversion at Moulton Weir could impact all Sacramento system runs except Butte Creek and Feather River stocks. While use of existing facilities at Red Bluff could avoid impacts on all tributary stocks located downstream. The impacts of all potential diversion facilities should be quantified and compared in the EIS/EIR.

Use of existing and/or new diversion facilities require the establishment of so called "hard points" using rock riprap or concrete that prevents river meander and erosion/deposition of suitable spawning gravels. In addition, hard points provide less suitable habitat for young salmonids than naturally eroded banks. The total impact of bank protection associated with diversion sites should be quantified in the EIS/EIR.

Use of existing and/or new diversion facilities would require construction of new canals and possible expansion of existing canals to connect the diversion facilities to the Sites reservoir. The environmental impact of new and expanded canals depends on their location and should be quantified in the EIS/EIR.

Reservoir Impacts

Sites Reservoir –

The Sites reservoir would drown 14,000 acres of grassland, oak woodland, chaparral, riparian vegetation, vernal pools, and wetlands, including 19 acres of rare alkali wetlands. Evidence of the threatened valley elderberry longhorn beetle has been found in riparian vegetation in the Sites area. The vernal pools and wetlands are likely habitat for threatened vernal pool fairy shrimp and the endangered Conservancy fairy shrimp. The wetlands are also considered suitable habitat for other rare but not listed species of fairy shrimp. Until recently, actual surveys for these species were blocked by local landowners.

At least 20 other sensitive or special status wildlife species have been found in or near the reservoir footprint, including hardhead, northwestern pond turtle, Cooper's hawk, sharp-shinned hawk, tri-colored blackbird, golden eagle, short-eared owl, long-eared owl, burrowing owl, ferruginous hawk, lark sparrow, northern harrier, yellow warbler, white-tailed kite, California horned lark, merlin, prairie falcon, pallid bat, western red bat, ringtail, and American badger. Potential habitat exists for 56 other sensitive, threatened, or endangered species. The Sites area also supports four rare plant species.

Field surveys have identified 41 prehistoric sites, 17 of which appear to provisionally meet criteria for eligibility to including on the National Register of Historic Places. Little work has been done to identify historic sites, but it is estimated that the Sites area may possess 15 to 20 significant historic sites, including the historic district associated with the town of Sites.

Thomes-Newville Project –

The Newville reservoir would inundate 17,000 acres of grassland, oak woodland, chaparral, riparian, and wetland habitat. Approximately 621 acres of jurisdictional wetlands would be lost and would have to be mitigated. This includes 26 acres of potential habitat for protected invertebrate species (fairy shrimp), riparian habitat actively used by the threatened Valley elderberry longhorn beetle, as well as habitat for nine rare plants. Altogether, 21 special status fish, wildlife, and plant species have been observed in or near the reservoir footprint. Potential habitat exists in or near the reservoir footprint for another 70 special status species.

It should be noted that the Newville project includes a proposed diversion from Thomes Creek, which is considered critical habitat for the threatened spring run chinook salmon and winter steelhead. In addition, the project could impact flows in Stony Creek, which is also considered critical habitat for threatened salmonids. Current surveys for these species are limited. Most of the available fish data is from the 1980s.

A total of 117 prehistoric cultural sites are located in the Newville reservoir site, including approximately 60 sites that meet National Register eligibility criteria. Cultural surveys were conducted in the early 1980s and lack historic sites. The area certainly contains notable historic sites, including the old town site of Newville and its cemetery.