

CENTENNIAL RESERVOIR
PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING
PUBLIC COMMENTS

Thursday, March 10, 2016
6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Forest Lake Christian High School
12515 Combie Road
Auburn, CA 95602

1 MS. HENDERSON: Hello. Okay. Henderson,
2 H-E-N-D-E-R-S-O-N.

3 I'm from Grass Valley, and I'm currently
4 serving as Nevada County Bureau President.

5 I moved here in the '60s with my parents when
6 they opened up a hardware store downtown Mill Street
7 with my grandparents. Grew up on Mill Street, but
8 before that we've been traveling up and to the lake,
9 French Lake in the High Sierra, and actually I went
10 through Jackson Meadows when it was a meadow before it
11 became a lake, and it was beautiful then, but it's also
12 beautiful now as a lake full of fish and its recreation
13 and camping area.

14 But more importantly, their reservoirs, all of
15 those lakes, and they catch the water, as we heard, from
16 the engineer in regards to why it's important that we
17 catch this water so that we have it for irrigation
18 purposes.

19 It's very similar to a bank account, if you
20 will. Used when reservoirs get low. To run a business
21 without a bank account, it's dangerous and reckless, and
22 just pretending we don't need anymore reservoirs to
23 catch water for a growing population.

24 Currently my husband and I have 12 acres of
25 property where we raise lambs. We have our own

1 garden and utilize -- sheep and goats on the property in
2 combination with the irrigated pastures to keep our
3 small acreage a fire safe area for our neighborhood, as
4 well as growing most of our own food.

5 I am a biologist, an animal scientist and a
6 teacher by trade, and in pretty simple science I
7 understand that water falls in winter and spring, and
8 it's hot and dry in the summer with our Mediterranean
9 climate.

10 We need a large drink of water to supply our
11 local food here in California to keep fresh water
12 flowing to our homes.

13 Agriculture can be amazing -- is amazing in our
14 community and has been for a hundred years and over, and
15 remains will keep us strong, our lands healthy and
16 plenty of open space, using grazing as a tool to keep
17 our properties fire safe and a food supply for our local
18 citizens.

19 To grow food, we need a reliable water supply
20 and support as farm bureau of this Centennial reservoir
21 as an aid in making sure we keep a healthy bank of
22 water.

23 Thank you.

24 MR. RYLAND: I'm going to face the audience,
25 rather than the NID folks because you are the people who

1 ultimately will be greatly impacted by this project.

2 Can you hear me loud enough? Thank you.

3 My name is David Ryland, R-Y-L-A-N-D.

4 I am 20-year resident of Meadow Vista. I've
5 been a property owner in Placer County for 30 years.
6 I've been a private businessman in Placer County for 40
7 years.

8 My family has been in the west slope of
9 California since the '60s, the 1860's, as someone
10 mentioned at last night's meeting.

11 By the way, how many folks were at the meeting
12 last night?

13 Great. There are some things I want to share.

14 I have a fisheries degree from Humboldt State
15 University. As I mentioned, I am a private businessman.
16 I appreciate the need we have to continue to develop
17 resources for our economy. However, I do believe that
18 services are a 19th Century solution with a 21st Century
19 problem.

20 I do have a few questions for the District,
21 some things that were brought up last night.

22 I would like to know what percent of NID's
23 total captured water is actually consumed by the folks
24 within the Nevada Irrigation District.

25 It was stated at the beginning of this

1 presentation that NID is operated by and for the
2 landowners. And I would hope that the motivation and
3 the consumption that are intended for this reservoir are
4 directed for that purpose.

5 I would like to know to what extent this
6 project is envisioned by, supported and perhaps funded
7 by downstream. To what extent are the waters to be
8 captured by the surface impoundment going to be used in
9 areas far removed from our locale.

10 Also, I don't understand the statement of
11 environment releases, almost equal treated water
12 releases. This was shared last night.

13 When you looked at the flows in the Ancestral
14 River Channel as compare to the amount of water flowing
15 down the Bear River canal, I would have to assume those
16 environmental discharges are intended for uses far
17 downstream.

18 Now, the District claims a right of priority
19 gained back in 1927. And it is on that basis that this
20 project is being forwarded.

21 It was mentioned in last night's meeting that
22 at the time that project was first proposed, there was
23 no Rollins reservoir, there was no Combie reservoir, and
24 if that, in fact, is true, we have to consider that
25 creating this reservoir today is asking to do something

1 to this stream that is very different from the
2 circumstances that existed in 1927.

3 I do believe that an alternative technology or
4 system of water retention that is not fully considered
5 here is recharging our aquifers.

6 And at last night's meeting we had a
7 Mr. Binner, B-I-N-N-E-R, who was, I believe, Class III
8 Water Operator from the Roseville Water District,
9 perhaps retired, so he feels comfortable speak speaking
10 openly, and he stated that in Roseville they are
11 recharging the aquifers there, and we have significantly
12 drawn down the water table throughout the Central Valley
13 basin, and we have to consider the significant loss of
14 water due to evaporation when we utilize surfacing
15 impoundment.

16 Last of all, one aspect of this project that I
17 fear will not be seriously considered because as I watch
18 the FERC re-licensing of the Bear/Yuba project last
19 year, the whole issue of considering restoration of our
20 fisheries, salmon head, steelhead was missing on a
21 cursory basis. It's very clear that neither NID nor any
22 of the large power operators on the West really have any
23 desire or concern about recreating what has been an
24 ancestral and huge environmental aspect of the Central
25 Valley ecosystem.

1 And when you consider that for millennia,
2 Mother Nature has delivered back to terrestrial
3 ecosystems tens of thousands of tons of nutrients by the
4 transmission of expiring fish, and we have completely
5 deprived our current ecosystems of what has been
6 traditionally and ancestrally correct. I think that's
7 sad.

8 I think that's all I have to say. Thank you.

9 MR. LITTON: L-I-T-T-O-N.

10 I was on the mic last night, but afterwards I
11 realized that I did it wrong, so I want to make some
12 corrections.

13 I first want to begin with gratitude because I
14 am extremely grateful for everything that NID does. I
15 spent a lot of time out of the country, and every time I
16 come back and able to drink this amazing water that you
17 bring, I am very, very grateful, and I can't imagine the
18 amount of work that you must go through simply to keep
19 the pipes running, and 490 miles of water must be quite
20 an immense project, so I'm very, very grateful for
21 everything that you do.

22 My hair is wet right now because I went down to
23 the Bear River, down by the Dog Bar Bridge that crosses
24 the road. I wanted to spend a little of bit of time
25 before coming here just to have that -- just to have the

1 healthy words, and if anybody hasn't been there
2 recently, I highly recommend.

3 It's a beautiful place. You go down to Dog Bar
4 Bridge, and you take that trail up -- up the river, and
5 it's extremely beautiful, and it's a really good
6 reminder just how lucky we are to live in this
7 incredibly, beautiful place.

8 I came across something really wonderful. The
9 mission of NID is to provide dependable and quality
10 water source and strive to be good stewards of the
11 watersheds and conserve the available resources.

12 That's a really beautiful statement, and I
13 think that all of us can relate to that second half, at
14 least. To strive to be good stewards of the watershed
15 and conserve the available resources.

16 I did notice that nowhere in that statement
17 does it talk about demolishing people's houses, and as
18 far as I can tell, you are all very good people assigned
19 to do what's best for the community, so I can appreciate
20 what you are doing. I'm sure it's not easy.

21 I've listened to the things that people have
22 said at these meetings, and I wanted to share something
23 different, and it reminded me of an 80 year old pilot
24 that I met on an aerial photography expedition, and he
25 told me this story.

1 He said, Jeff, for the first 30 years of my
2 life, I worked in the Army Corps of Engineers, and my
3 job was to take water out of the Colorado River, and it
4 took me 30 years to realize that I was doing it wrong.

5 And then he spent the next 30 years of his life
6 trying to bring water back to the Colorado River because
7 everything had been so depleted from those actions, and
8 he told me that he carries that guilt with him.

9 And so I can't imagine what it must feel like
10 to lose your home. That must be something terrible, and
11 furthermore, I can't imagine what it feels like to force
12 someone to lose their home. That must be a heavy burden
13 to carry.

14 And I would like to offer to all of you at NID
15 working on this project that if you haven't seen -- you
16 haven't seen that stretch of the Bear River, I'd
17 actually like to invite you on a rafting trip. I would
18 love to share with all of you working on this project --
19 my friend owns a rafting company up here. We'll bring
20 you down, we'll do it safely, it's an extraordinary
21 time, and I would really love for you to see that area.

22 And, likewise, if there's anyone here that
23 might be listening who's home is going to be lost if
24 this dam takes place, you might consider inviting
25 everyone on that team to come see your home, so that way

1 it makes it a little bit more real, and that way you
2 know what's at stake.

3 I hope that each of you will go to that Dog Bar
4 Bridge and just walk upstream and spend some time there.
5 It's extraordinarily beautiful, especially if you are
6 not familiar with the area.

7 In the words of Robert Frost, two roads
8 diverged in the wood, and I, I took the road less
9 traveled by, and that is what makes all the difference.

10 Now, NID could go down this road towards this
11 dam to demolish 25 homes of our citizens, to divide our
12 community on projects that will have minimal gain, to
13 worsen global climate change by the methane that will be
14 released by the reservoir to kill a river, one of our
15 most cherished places that we go with our friends and
16 family, to ruin the opportunity for our future sons and
17 daughters to know -- to know and love this beautiful
18 river, or NID has the possibility to do something great
19 to this community and to be stewards of these rivers.

20 Thank you very much.

21 MR. WOLLAN: Hi, I'm Otis Wollan. W-O-L-L-A-N.

22 I live on Boat Ranch Road, right at the edge of
23 the proposed reservoir. I served from 1987 to 2008 as
24 the Elected President of Placer County Water Agency.

25 Living on the river and knowing something about

1 water, I don't think there's a whole lot of water
2 running down the Bear River, so I took a real good look
3 at that. I went to the reservoir down below Camp Far
4 West and said, how much water is spilling over Camp Far
5 West.

6 So I did a case study and found out that seven
7 of the last nine years virtually no water spills over to
8 Camp Far West, which effectively means that there's
9 enough water in the Bear River for one dam and not two.

10 NID is very confident in its presentations that
11 their water rights trump the water rights of South
12 Sutter Water District, and that may be true, but to the
13 degree that Camp Far West is drawn down by water
14 diverted upstream by NID, to that degree, the ground
15 water basin in Western Placer County is going to be
16 overdrafted.

17 And the way that works is before Camp Far West,
18 Western Placer groundwater basin was dropping one to
19 three feet per year until it was over 60 feet depleted,
20 and basically the State of California and regional
21 entities got together, built Camp Far West to supply the
22 rice farmers with a cheap supply of surface water so
23 they can get off of groundwater.

24 They viewed divert water above Camp Far West.
25 The farmers do not go out of business. They simply turn

1 on the pumps that were there before Camp Far West, and
2 they're ready to be turned on again if Nevada Irrigation
3 District fills its reservoir and prevents South Sutter
4 from filling theirs.

5 I suppose it's some kind of odd measure of
6 wealth in the United States that we can actually build
7 two dams and not only then have only enough water to
8 fill one.

9 So I suppose that's some kind of odd testament
10 to our abundance, but basically this is all in the
11 Western Groundwater Management Plan that has been
12 completed in 2007 by Placer County Water Agency details
13 of this particular problem.

14 So just repeating again, to the degree gallon
15 for gallon almost if you take water out of Camp Far
16 West, it will be pumped out of the ground, and you will
17 be overdrafting the groundwater basin under the Cities
18 of Lincoln and Roseville.

19 And I would be willing to bet that this NOP was
20 not circulated to anyone in Western or Placer County,
21 much less the cities of Roseville, PCWA, the City of
22 Lincoln and the California American Water Company, much
23 less, every single landowner and farmer out there that
24 owns a well who is threatened by overdraft in
25 groundwater depletion.

1 So this is a very serious impact of Western
2 Placer and has not been mentioned.

3 The gentleman I heard last night who said
4 Roseville is replenishing the groundwater. They, in
5 fact, do. They take shoulder water from their treatment
6 plant and inject it into the ground.

7 They're putting treated water into the ground.
8 If this dam happens, South Sutter, Camp Far West dries
9 up, there is going to be huge and enormous impact to
10 Western Placer.

11 So I think this needs to be addressed. As a
12 matter of fact, I think it's such a failing of this
13 particular process, that that whole series of
14 stakeholders neither was circulated the NOP, nor were
15 they provided an opportunity to have a public hearing in
16 their area to talk specifically about this problem.

17 So just a little piece on this, if there's not
18 enough water to fill one reservoir, and you're going to
19 build two, somebody is going to be really low.

20 If it's the reservoir up here Centennial, I'm
21 going to be living next to an open pit mine. It's going
22 to be empty.

23 Every year, a hundred thousand acre feet of
24 water from that reservoir will draw down 120 feet. If
25 you've seen Rollins down eight or ten feet, you know

1 that it's not a pretty picture.

2 Have you ever seen a reservoir down a 120 feet?
3 Take a look at Oroville in fall of 2015, take a look at
4 Stanislaus, some pictures of that. By all means, take a
5 look at this stuff. This is a very serious proposal.
6 Has impacts far and wide.

7 I'll leave these two elements of -- Groundwater
8 Management Plan, you can get a picture of the major
9 stakeholders, that every well is a stakeholder, deserves
10 to be informed, deserves the feedback.

11 MR. ALTMAN: David Altman, A-L-T-M-A-N.

12 In December 2014 I attended one of the NID
13 board meetings, and I outlined a number of concerns,
14 such as propaganda, wells, protect groundwater.

15 I have a focus, and I won't go into it now, but
16 I have a couple new issues that I would like to just
17 bring some concern about.

18 One, if the Dog Bar process is in place,
19 crossing over the dam, thus taking the traffic through
20 Meadow Vista. Because the roads actually are better
21 from I-80 through Meadow Vista and then here in to
22 Combie, as opposed to the Cirby Dog Bar reservoir, I
23 believe that a lot of traffic is going use the Meadow
24 Vista route as a shortcut, and therefore, there will be
25 significant impact on Downtown Meadow Vista, and I hope

1 some mitigation will be considered for that.

2 The other item that just came to my attention,
3 and I was not at the Meadow Vista MAC meeting the other
4 day, but it was my understanding that the Placer County
5 Supervisors are looking to -- for a replacement for the
6 Bear River campground, and a discussion regarding
7 building a park on Peaceful Valley Road, which is the
8 road I live on.

9 My house will be underwater, so it doesn't
10 matter for me, but the neighbors will be there still.

11 Peaceful Valley Road right now is a one-lane
12 road, privately owned. The people that live there have
13 to contain it, and I certainly hope that if a park is
14 being put in there, that as part of this project, that
15 NID will assume responsibility for the maintenance of
16 the road, and that improvements will be made to make it
17 safe for two-way traffic.

18 If you've ever been to Hidden Falls on a
19 Saturday, Hidden Falls trails on Saturday, it's mayhem
20 of traffic all the way from Park out Mt. Vernon Road,
21 and the homeowners there suffer consequences of people
22 trespassing by their property.

23 The other issue is back to the park on Peaceful
24 Valley Road. The other concerns would be noise,
25 especially if it incorporates the campground, for the

1 people that live there and how that will be handled and
2 security.

3 Bear River campground right now, sometimes the
4 people living there are not the friendliest group.

5 Thank you.

6 MR. BUTYRIN: Hi, my name is Larry Butyrin,
7 B-U-T-Y-R-I-N.

8 I've been a resident generally in the area for
9 about 40 years, in the same place for 33 years, or
10 longer.

11 I've used all these areas for recreation, and
12 just generally seen it. I've also -- there's --

13 Some of the experts here that spoke already
14 about the drawdown of the water. I've driven across
15 Combie Lake, and it's just a mud pit, and that's exactly
16 what's to going happen with all this.

17 There is just not enough water to supply all
18 these reservoirs. If the water's down, it's down. I
19 mean, you can't just keep putting little drops here and
20 there and expect it to supply all these different areas.

21 It just seems to me that NID wants to sell
22 water downstream. I don't really think it's going to
23 benefit anything. I think it's going to do a lot of
24 destruction, and like some of the experts said, it's
25 just going to be just a mud pit.

1 Rollins Lake has been really low. If you can't
2 keep that full, how are you going to keep this one full?
3 It's just another senseless project.

4 There's also -- the conservation measures.
5 Talk about them, but yet we have a lot of high-end homes
6 that go in with a lot of high-end landscaping that takes
7 a lot of water and put in a lot of golf courses that
8 uses huge amounts of water, and what, just to knock a
9 little ball around.

10 That's where we need to cut the water usage,
11 not to be putting in more reservoirs that supply that
12 kind of usage. So it's a really bad idea.

13 Thank you.

14 MR. WAUTERS: Hello. My name is William
15 Wauters, W-A-U-T-E-R-S.

16 I've been a Placer County resident since 1949
17 for the last 40 years in the Clipper Gap area.

18 I know a bit about what boards, special
19 districts should do, and I know a bit about recreation
20 by virtue of having served two terms as an elected board
21 member of the Auburn Recreational District.

22 I will have extensive comments on that.

23 Right now I am calling your process into
24 question just like Otis did. I had no idea where this
25 place was.

1 Gayle Russell, did you get here? No. I saw
2 Gayle Russell driving around. It says, Forest Lake
3 Christian School way over there. So at least one person
4 who also grew up in the Auburn area could not find this
5 place.

6 The absolute contempt you're showing for the
7 residents of Placer County by not even having a meeting
8 in Placer County is calling your questionable
9 outreach -- it is bogus.

10 You don't care about us because we don't even
11 vote in your district, because we don't, but yet Placer
12 County will have most of the negative effects.

13 MS. FORDYCE: Rebecca Fordyce, F-O-R-D-Y-C-E.

14 I'm not affiliated with the lake, only when I
15 need to be, and I'd like to say that Dave -- is it
16 David? Yes. You said it all. I mean, that's
17 incredible.

18 I'm a fisher person. I go to Fort Bragg and
19 fish, and I've seen the fish dwindle. There's no
20 salmon, there's none. You can boat all day with about
21 30 to 60 fisherman out there, and two fish were caught
22 all week.

23 And the fish that's not there, you used to get
24 buckets of that with nets. There's no fish, so what I'm
25 saying is in the 20th Century, we should be tearing down

1 the dams because they're not working.

2 The food chain isn't doing us any good, and
3 they are already tearing down some dams, and we're going
4 to build one for, like he said, homes, golf courses.

5 The golf courses in Grass Valley, they don't
6 use reclaimed -- what do you call it -- sewer water,
7 whatever it is, you know, that's stuff that goes down
8 into the ground in my house.

9 I do live on the Bear River. I have ten acres.
10 I'm between the day use and the campground, the night
11 use. I can see the gravel bar.

12 First I was for the lake. Too many people were
13 being displaced, but to listen to the people, it's the
14 people's river.

15 There's a lot of wildlife there. There's the
16 new one that just recently found -- I just seen a couple
17 of years, was the Ringtail Cat. Not very many people
18 know about it, but the Ringtail Cat is very adorable,
19 and the miners use them in their -- in the mines for,
20 whatever. They were their pets, I think. I have a
21 couple running around my place, and some neighbors in
22 Placer County have some in their yard just up from the
23 river and stuff.

24 So there's a lot of wildlife. Otters, of
25 course, the deer. I can't have any. I don't have a

1 rose garden because anything I plant outside, has to be
2 covered. I don't have fences to block anything, except
3 for around my little garden.

4 The other thing is is that NID, you can't find
5 out -- I don't understand the government part of them.
6 They're a government, they're a non-government, they're
7 a quasi-agency.

8 It seems like all their material that they are
9 trying to provide to us, which they're not, it's not in
10 their -- what do you -- their -- their records for
11 public knowledge.

12 We don't know where water is going.
13 Personally, I think it's going down to the San Joaquin,
14 Placer County, Sacramento Valley. I think they'll be
15 sending the water there.

16 I also believe that the drawdowns on the river
17 are going to be so extreme, that at some point they're
18 going to be taking water out of the Yuba River.

19 The Yuba River also has salmon on it, and we
20 have issues with the Delta. The Delta Ocean waters are
21 coming up into the Delta too far, and it's wiping out a
22 lot of land and the wildlife, everything that the
23 ecosystem for the fishery.

24 So we need to not divert any of water out of
25 Yuba River for this project to fill this lake. The

1 drawdowns are going to be too -- too large and the snow
2 pack is snow pack.

3 I came through Truckee. I lived there 24
4 years. I think I moved to Tahoe in '77. It was a
5 drought year. My first year in the snow. Three feet
6 was a lot of snow for me, and then '82, 1, 2, we had
7 huge amounts of snow. It shut down the railroad; it
8 shut down the freeways. Those years have come back.

9 They may not be in the next two to three, but
10 personally I really don't think we need more water to be
11 diverted to some other counties that are subsidized
12 farmers to grow, to not grow, and we have to conserve
13 our water when we can.

14 That's it.

15 MR. DUCKETT: Last name is Duckett,
16 D-U-C-K-E-T-T, and I'm mainly on the other side.

17 When I first heard about this, I got excited
18 because for most of my life I've seen California not do
19 anything as far as building new reservoirs, and
20 basically trying to help the Congress, help the people
21 that are moving into this state.

22 I know the reservoirs have been low lately, but
23 what we need to do is catch that water when you do have
24 water. Not only in one winter but in a bunch of
25 winters.

1 I know it's hard when you're on the river, and
2 it's your home and your land being taken, and I feel for
3 that, but I also -- I'm also against the not my backyard
4 type of a thing.

5 Looking at the big picture of California in
6 general and the lack of water, I was in India in January
7 on a medical mission. They have the same problem; they
8 have a drought, and we cannot drink their water.
9 There's no way Americans can touch that water. They
10 couldn't -- they usually grow two crops a year. They
11 couldn't because they can only grow one because they
12 have no storage.

13 In California storage is the key, and farmers
14 are being rationed. If this reservoir goes down and
15 supplies farms in the Valley, great. I'm --

16 We are Californians. We're not just Nevada
17 County or Placer County, and we really have to look at
18 the big picture of this state going forward.

19 MR. BENNETT: Steve Bennett. B-E-N-N-E-T-T.

20 What this gentleman just said. I'm on that
21 side as well.

22 I think if you looked at Nevada Irrigation
23 District, the forefathers that the first speaker talked
24 about, Jackson Meadows. We built Jackson Meadows --
25 without having those reservoirs, we wouldn't have Lake

1 of the Pines, we wouldn't have a Combie reservoir, you
2 wouldn't have houses on the Combie reservoir.

3 The foresight that they saw back in the day --
4 Thanks.

5 So I think that the NID back in the day had the
6 foresight to build storage that provided agriculture,
7 irrigation, domestic water, and I think they are doing
8 the right thing looking at what we need to do going
9 forward.

10 They're going through the right process.
11 They're going through CEQA, they're going through the
12 proper process, but I think that --

13 The gentleman mentioned rafting. I've kayaked
14 that river many times. I live just on the other side of
15 Placer County, but I think -- other side of the Bear
16 River. I think they're doing the right thing looking
17 forward for their district. That is their policy,
18 that's their charge, and they mitigate, they look at the
19 opportunities to -- for recreation and other things.

20 But -- thank you very much.

21 MS. CANANN: Hi. I'm Cathy Canann,
22 C-A-N-A-N-N. I'm 16 years old, and I currently reside
23 in Nevada County.

24 Today I'm going to talk about the fish. Fish
25 ladders only work on 50 percent of species, and you guys

1 aren't even planning on building one right now, and if
2 you do, a warm water reservoir isn't going to provide
3 these fish with the habitat they need.

4 I'm going to talk about eminent domain.

5 I talked to Nick Wilcox, who is the Director of
6 Nevada Irrigation District, and I asked him, why do you
7 think eminent domain is okay, and he said, because we've
8 been doing it for centuries, and I think that is not
9 okay. Just because we've been doing it for centuries,
10 doesn't mean we can keep doing it.

11 This is going to destroy six miles of oak
12 forest, which I am not okay with. That is just immoral
13 to me.

14 The mercury from mining is going to come up
15 when we drain all this water down to this dam, and
16 there's not going to be any water in between the three
17 dams that we're going to have.

18 The water that we plan on collecting is based
19 on past precipitation measures, and we can't see the
20 future. Like, why do you think we're going to get the
21 same precipitation we got awhile ago?

22 The methane that is going to be released from
23 building this dam is going to make climate change worse.
24 I talked to SYRCL, a person from SYRCL, and he told me
25 that the Nevada Irrigation District only provides five

1 percent of the water for Nevada County, so where is this
2 water going? Who are the customers? Because I looked
3 it up, and I can't find out where this water is actually
4 going.

5 This is a 1927 idea that you want to put in for
6 2023? I don't think that's okay. I don't -- and you
7 guys don't even have very, like, knowledgeable points
8 that you have research. You just kind of brush over
9 your presentation, and if you've been planning this
10 since 1927, why do you not know what you're doing?

11 David and Rebecca have put concerns for the
12 fish, so the fish are really important to me, and with
13 eminent domain, you're not only kicking out the 25
14 families, you're also kicking out the homeless people
15 that live by the river, and I don't know, are you guys
16 going to provide them with support because -- because
17 they always get forgotten.

18 Plus, how is this going to affect indigenous
19 people and indigenous rights. What are the
20 socioeconomic situation of all the people that are going
21 to be negatively impacted, and what is the socioeconomic
22 situation and background of these so-called customers?
23 Who are NID's customers, and where is the water going?

24 Thank you.

25 MS. SPACEK: My name is Kaley Spacek,

1 S-P-A-C-E-K.

2 I'd like to start by saying, I hadn't planned
3 on speaking when I first attended the Environmental
4 Impact Report last night, but after attending the EIR in
5 Grass Valley, I felt compelled. Honestly, I don't know
6 whether I was feeling empowered by my other peers who
7 spoke last night or feeling indignant or contempt for
8 the old man that told us, remember, girls, don't bite
9 the hand that feeds you as he walked out the door.
10 Either way, I have things to say.

11 When Nick Wilcox of the NID spoke to my
12 classmates and I at the Woolman Semester School, he
13 spoke of the great pros of the dam. There was increased
14 water storage, increased habitat, have no negative
15 effects on fish, boost agriculture, and more, while the
16 conflicts were brushed over, like how the dam would be
17 destroying six miles of oak forest and destroying homes.

18 He chuckled when we questioned his -- for taking
19 our concerns seriously. When a classmate of mine asked
20 why he thought it was okay to use eminent domain over
21 others, he simply laughed and replied, well, we've been
22 doing it for centuries.

23 Doing something for centuries may be an excuse,
24 but it's far from a valid one. Destroying habitat and
25 putting endangered species at greater risk is not

1 justifiable because it's been happening for centuries,
2 and neither is removing families from homes where
3 they've been living for years and years.

4 Speaking of which, when Nick Wilcox spoke to
5 our class, we were told that the residents of Bear River
6 were mostly wealthy people using their houses as summer
7 homes. Based on a speaker from last night, this is
8 false.

9 There are people who have been living there for
10 over 25 years. People who have raised their children
11 and grandchildren there, and I honestly feel like it's
12 an insult to them to ignore the reality of people living
13 along the river.

14 Being originally from a very project-focused
15 school in Sacramento, I've seen long drawn-out
16 presentations of project proposals. As soon as we are
17 expected to go very in depth about the effects of a
18 project, who will be harmed from the project and who
19 will benefit from it.

20 Every sophomore lesson completes gateways,
21 which are two-hour presentations focused entirely on
22 going in depth on the lay questions, while still being
23 pushed by teachers to do more and think more.

24 We are not allowed to just graze over the
25 effects in detail of our projects, or we know we're

1 about to drilled by our peers for it.

2 The pros briefly presented to us by Nick Wilcox
3 and later presented at the EIR report seem embellished
4 while the cons seem to barely be taken seriously.

5 If 15 and 16 year olds can be responsible
6 enough and capable of such thought to be incredibly
7 in-depth on projects as simple as an open mic night or
8 benefit for charity, why are the NID incapable of doing
9 so.

10 Quite frankly, it is difficult to not feel
11 scorn for adults much older than I who have not
12 presented a complicated project as well as my peers.

13 I don't doubt that the NID has considered the
14 project more, but I don't feel like they've entirely
15 shown it to us. I digress.

16 I have questions for the NID that are not
17 addressed on the website or just brushed over in their
18 presentation.

19 Who are the people that are really benefitting
20 from this dam? How many people are really going to be
21 displaced from their homes? By this, I include the
22 homeless living near the river, not just the landowners.

23 Does the NID have any plans to help the
24 homeless in the camps along the river that will be
25 displace by making this dam, or are the homeless going

1 to be ignored as they nearly always are?

2 How are the indigenous people in the area are
3 going to be affected? And does the NID plan on helping
4 them in any way for issues by the dam as well?

5 How many endangered species are going to put at
6 greater risk with the destruction of habitat, and on
7 that note, how does it make sense if destroying six
8 miles of forest increase habitat?

9 How is this dam going to affect fish migration?
10 Is the NID taking its consideration of the native salmon
11 on the river can not live in a warm water lake needing
12 cold river to migrate to populate?

13 How are animals supposed to migrate across a
14 six-mile lake? Are there plans to building a bridge,
15 since the current one across the river is going to be
16 flooded if the dam is built. How is this going to
17 affect rivers and fish further downstream?

18 And a speaker earlier brought up, why is there
19 no meeting being held in Placer County when these
20 people -- when there are more people being directly
21 affected by it?

22 There are so many unanswered questions when it
23 comes to this project, and I'm pretty sure the NID has
24 left more than any project I've ever seen as a high
25 schooler. You would think for a dam thought up nearly a

1 century ago, they would have figured more of this out.

2 Thank you.

3 MS. NOLL: My name is Kate Noll. I am from
4 Austin, Texas. I'm a high school senior, and I am
5 currently attending the Woolman Semester School with the
6 two students that y'all just heard from before me, and I
7 realize that some of this might seem a bit redundant
8 since it's already been said by my classmates, but I
9 think it is very important that our classroom is being
10 moved to the community.

11 As a resident of Texas, I am no stranger to
12 droughts. We have been in serious drought conditions
13 since 2010, and so I am no stranger to lack of
14 groundwater, dried up wells and water restrictions.

15 I have many questions. Like I said, they may
16 be redundant, but I am grateful for the opportunity from
17 the NID to voice my concerns.

18 The questions that I am going to ask, I also
19 asked last night at the meeting in Grass Valley. I have
20 found no reliable source to answer these questions. The
21 NID has not been truly transparent about the negative
22 impacts of this reservoir. When concerns are brought to
23 light, even if the people voicing them are less than
24 half their age, doesn't give them the go ahead to shut
25 those concerns down simply because of the people voicing

1 them.

2 Water demand is increasing, and that's no joke
3 to California residents; nor should it be treated like
4 one. Another fact that is no joke to the residents of
5 California is lack of water.

6 What is the process of decreased water demand?
7 If water demand is decreased, would there be a need for
8 the dam in the first place? What have been the measures
9 to conserve water, and how have they been regulated?

10 Who will benefit the most from the dam? What
11 is the socioeconomic status of the people benefited by
12 the dam?

13 It seems as though there is significant amount
14 of environmental injustice in regards to those who are
15 benefitting from the reservoir, such as the water being
16 used by high-end landscaping and golf courses.

17 As told by Nick Wilcox in his presentation from
18 our science class, the houses being displaced were
19 mostly the summer homes of the financially wealthy, but
20 it is clear that this is not the case.

21 How does the location of the dam impact the
22 community surrounding it? How is the location even
23 determined? Will there be compensation for the people
24 being removed from their homes, and who is being
25 displaced from their homes because of the dam?

1 How will this dam impact the lives of the
2 indigenous people in this area, and has there been
3 consideration for this? What are the plans for
4 protection from mercury poisoning? How will the people
5 in lower income communities be given compensation for
6 the health effects of consuming mercury?

7 What kind of effect -- effort is being made to
8 preserve the already dwindling population of salmon that
9 has already been on the decline since the Gold Rush when
10 there was already an extreme amount of mercury runoff
11 that was put into the water system?

12 If the displacement of people's homes and
13 livelihoods that have been established for generations
14 isn't enough of a reason not to build a dam, think about
15 the long-term effects of more mercury buildup in the
16 water and how that will impact the lives of future
17 generations, my generation and the generation of my
18 children and y'all's grandchildren. If that's not
19 enough, I don't know what is.

20 As Catherine said, it's not always going to
21 rain, and this dam is depending on past rainfall to fill
22 up the reservoir, there is no guarantee that it's going
23 to rain, despite the rain we have been getting here in
24 this area this week.

25 But if there's a thought just because it's been

1 raining a ton this week, let me just say that thinking
2 there will be no more drought because it rained at your
3 house today is like saying that hunger doesn't exist
4 anymore because we ate today.

5 A 110,000 acre feet of water is a ton of water
6 this area already doesn't have, and creating a reservoir
7 isn't going to magically make water here. Instead of
8 making accommodations for the current water usage,
9 building a reservoir so we can keep our golf courses and
10 lawn a plush green, we should be looking at water
11 conservation and ways of life that are cohesive to
12 adapting to the current water situation.

13 Again, there is no proof that the NID is
14 supplying water to the people or small towns, and based
15 off of this, the environmental and public impact, and
16 supposedly feel good eminent domain cause of, we've been
17 doing this for years isn't good enough.

18 Thank you.

19 MR. PARKS: Jeff Parks. P-A-R-K-S.

20 I'm here on behalf of the State Water Resources
21 Control Board, and I apologize, I wasn't able to be at
22 the meeting last night. I really hope they're some
23 other agency folks hiding out there.

24 My comments are just as much for NID as they
25 are for the public, and that's just to let you know that

1 the State Water Resources Control Board is here and is
2 paying attention. We are going to be very involved in
3 water rights aspects of this project -- in the water
4 rights aspect of this project.

5 And we're also going to be the ones doing the
6 401 Water Quality Certification for this project, so we
7 intend to be very involved with all aspects of the CEQA
8 process, and I'm glad to see everybody out here, and
9 hope to see this many people when we're doing our --
10 public parts of the -- our process in this project.

11 Thank you.

12 MS. CHALPIN: My name is Susan Chalpin.
13 C-H-A-L-P-I-N. I've been a Nevada County resident for
14 27 years. I live in Chicago Park area.

15 I have some questions for NID, and I have some
16 comments.

17 One question, where is the proposed water
18 going? And I don't believe it's going for the citizens
19 of Nevada County. It's got to be going downstream,
20 right?

21 And how do you propose to mitigate flooding
22 Heritage Oaks? There's a lot of Heritage Oaks in that
23 corridor upstream of the proposed well site, I mean,
24 well site, dam site.

25 I don't know if people here know that

1 90 percent of NID water goes for irrigation, ten percent
2 goes for domestic use, and a lot of that irrigation
3 water, it's not restricted on how it's used.

4 You can run rain -- 24 hours a day, during the
5 day a lot of that water transpires, goes back into the
6 atmosphere. There's also a problem in a lot of the
7 unlined ditches. They're not shock treated, they're not
8 covered, and a lot of that water transpires and goes
9 into the ground.

10 I really don't see the conservation measure.
11 You mentioned conservation. I don't see that going on.
12 I think instead of building a dam, NID needs to
13 concentrate on conservation not only in their dispersal
14 methodology, but in requirements for the people that are
15 current irrigation users, and I'm one of them.

16 The other thing that I think everybody should
17 be knowledgeable about is if the groundwater is going
18 down, downstream of Placer County, one of the things
19 that all the health departments are struggling with
20 right now is there's no restriction on the number of
21 wells that a private person can drill on their parcel.

22 So if somebody has ten acres, they can drill
23 ten wells, they can drill 20 wells. DWR does not
24 require a mitigation on the number of those wells.

25 That's it. That's all I have tonight.

1 MR. COULTER: Hello. Coulter. C-O-U-L-T-E-R.

2 I have a couple of questions for the audience,
3 actually, if that's okay.

4 How many people have rain barrels? I'm kind of
5 curious. How many people let the water run? How many
6 people let the water run when they brush their teeth?
7 How many people have drip irrigation?

8 On the organization of these meetings, I don't
9 use a computer, but I did Google how to get here
10 tonight, so I knew how to get here. I called NID to ask
11 them how to get here, and they gave me wrong directions
12 on how to get here, and, you know, it was okay. I knew
13 where I was going, but I think a lot of other people
14 didn't.

15 I've travelled around the world, the globe both
16 directions, and I consider myself kind of a desert rat,
17 so I do enjoy the desert environment, see how desert
18 people live, as well as mountain people, and I feel like
19 with conservation and using your resources properly, you
20 can get away with not having a lot of resources but
21 living very well.

22 A little worried about a dam with an earthquake
23 situation. They keep talking about the big one; it
24 hasn't happened yet, but eventually it will.

25 I wrote a great article in the San Francisco

1 Chronicle the other day about the Klamath rivers, taking
2 down the dams up there. There is also the Carmel River
3 and the amount it costs to store that river and take
4 that dam down, which was pretty extreme, and the amount
5 of work that it took to do it.

6 So it just seems like we're kind of going
7 backwards by talking about putting dams up versus taking
8 dams down.

9 High intensity water drops down the hill.
10 Cotton, almonds, all these type of things are taking a
11 lot of water, but I'd just like to say, I feel very
12 blessed to live in this Country where we can have these
13 discussions, as well as the fact that it's raining right
14 now.

15 I'm an ordained minister, and I consider my
16 church to be nature. I spend a lot of time in nature
17 every day, and I just feel like the things that we take
18 for granted, all the animals that we don't understand
19 their language, are not allowed to speak on this, and I
20 think they would have something to say if they were
21 allowed to speak on this.

22 And one final thing, I love NID for the fact
23 that my fondest memories of this area over the 45 years
24 I've lived here, fishing and all their NID ditches and
25 different places, and the largest trout I've ever seen

1 anywhere in this county, actually, even out of Jackson
2 or any other reservoirs was right out of the Bear River,
3 24 inches long by a friend of mine, and he was pretty
4 proud, and I was pretty proud to be his friend.

5 Thank you.

6 MR. KRAG: Good evening. Chuck Krag. K-R-A-G.
7 30-year resident of South Nevada County.

8 Several points I'd like to emphasize. Some of
9 these have been covered in another way by other people,
10 but what really strikes me what NID is doing here is
11 almost you can call it cart before the horse.

12 We don't have our -- our water rights nailed
13 down. We haven't studied alternatives, and yet we have
14 already spent and are committing hundreds of thousands
15 of dollars. I don't understand this.

16 I think -- I think there ought to be a pause,
17 and a lot of the questions that are being asked tonight,
18 need to have answers, they need to have answers before
19 the formal EIR project or study really gets going.

20 Now, as far as study alternatives, it is the
21 usual practice in doing EIR's that you study
22 alternatives in addition to what you start out with as a
23 desired project.

24 And what we haven't heard about, either in the
25 presentations, or otherwise, is increasing the capacity

1 of existing reservoirs, either by dredging or by raising
2 the dam, improvement water retention and slow release of
3 the forest head waters and mountain meadows.

4 There's a dramatic demonstration that has
5 occurred in the last five years. It's not in the NID
6 district. It's in another water district, but my wife
7 and I go up there and check on it a couple of times
8 every year. And it's amazing what has been done for not
9 a whole lot of money to get a meadow working again, like
10 it ought to, and it builds up and stores water and does
11 its slow release in the summer.

12 Now, funding. Obviously, you can tell I'm
13 concerned about that.

14 In the literature that NID has put out, they
15 thought 200, \$300 million to build Centennial Dam. It
16 will probably be more than that. Most public projects
17 are.

18 Now, I remember in -- living here for 30 years,
19 for most of those 30 years, I always had an NID tax on
20 my property tax bill, and yet, I had no access to any
21 benefit that NID might -- might provide, okay? No
22 water, whatever.

23 So one of my questions is, if the Centennial
24 Dam goes forward, I think the EIR clearly ought to look
25 at how do some of the people in the Nevada County who

1 have been paying off the past bond measures, and likely
2 be hit again for this one, how do they individually
3 benefit by getting access to the water that they've been
4 wanting for years and years and years?

5 Now, a comment on communications.

6 I think it was about eight months ago my wife
7 and I spent an evening when Nick Wilcox, one of the
8 board members, made a presentation about -- about what
9 they were thinking on this, and what they wanted to do,
10 and at that point in time, we were invited to sign up,
11 and we'd be on the list where we'd get regular
12 communications for new information on this project.

13 I got my first one in eight months about three
14 weeks ago, and it was the announcement of this meeting,
15 so F for communications on that count.

16 Second thing is I spent several hours today on
17 the NID website trying to find out more of the details
18 on this, and so help me, there is not enough
19 information, not enough specifics at all at this point
20 in time to even starting the EIR because we don't even
21 know some of the questions we ought to be asking,
22 including the scope of an EIR, so I think the whole
23 process needs to be slowed down, more information needs
24 to be given to the public.

25 MR. SILVERMAN: Hi. My name is Isaac

1 Silverman. S-I-L-V-E-R-M-A-N.

2 So I grew up in Placer County on the Bear
3 River. Fortunately my family home is downstream, Combie
4 reservoir, so it's not being inundated.

5 However, areas of the river that will be
6 flooded have deep, deep meaning for me. It's where I
7 grew up with my brother, with my friends, and those are
8 things that can't be replaced. You can't mitigate away
9 those memories that we all value.

10 That's one thing I wanted to say.

11 The other thing I wanted to say is it's partly
12 a comment to NID and it's partly addressed to everybody
13 in the audience.

14 We have been hearing a lot of lingo like when
15 this dam is built, when the issue of a statement of
16 overriding consideration for this dam.

17 The mere fact that we're here today, the CEQA
18 process, means that that's not the right words, those
19 are not the right words. It's if this dam is built,
20 this land would be funded. CEQA only applies to
21 discretionary actions.

22 There are lot of agencies, Federal agencies.
23 There's NID itself, they have choices in this matter,
24 and filling rooms like these and expressing our concerns
25 is going to be the only way that we can make those

1 correct decisions, so my hope is to see a lot of you in
2 the future.

3 MS. BARKYDT: Laura Barkydt.

4 I didn't intend to speak. Obviously, that's
5 why I'm last, but I wanted to just say to everybody here
6 that I'm -- I really care about the same things that you
7 all care about, which is difficult for me, because
8 having the water is really important to my family.

9 We are farmers and ranchers here in Nevada
10 County. We do receive water on the Combie Lake right
11 now, and so we were looking at probably some cutbacks
12 with the drought, and if the cutbacks happen, and they
13 continue to happen, we won't be able to have our farm
14 and ranch because our wells just will not cut.

15 I want this for my kids and my grandkids. We
16 want to pass it down and keep our -- our ranch going
17 into the future, so having water storage is important,
18 but I intend to go to all of the meetings I can, both
19 sides. I want to hear what it's all about, and I think
20 we all need to be able to make really informed choices
21 and not become so emotional at the mere thought of that
22 we just block everything out.

23 It's important to all of us or many of the same
24 users.

25 Thank you.

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REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

I, CATHERINE D. LAPLANTE, a Certified Shorthand Reporter for the State of California, do hereby certify:

That I am a disinterested person herein; that the foregoing comments was by me duly reported in shorthand by me, CATHERINE D. LAPLANTE, a Certified Shorthand Reporter of the State of California, and thereafter transcribed into typewriting; that the foregoing was transcribed to the best of my ability.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereby certify this transcript at my office in the County of Placer, State of California, this 17th day of March, 2016.

Catherine D. Laplante

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