

**BUREAU OF RECLAMATION**

**WATER EDUCATION FOUNDATION**

**717 H Street, Suite 317  
Sacramento, CA 95814**

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**BAY DELTA CONSERVATION PLAN MEETINGS**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS ONLY**

**FOR:**

**CLARKSBURG**

**Clarksburg:**

Ms. Vick: I am Jan Vick. I am a member of the Rio Vista City Council. I also filled out a Speaker Card so you can ignore it when you come to it.

Um -- we -- the City Council is very concerned and interested in all of the processes that are going on in the discussions of the Delta. In my investigations into the BDCP and when I have read your options document -- um -- and looked at the steering committee, and I would like to know where on the steering committee and involved in this process are the Delta stakeholders. There are no residents, farmers, cities or towns, recreation owners, sportsmen, or the Delta Protection Commission. They are -- we in the Delta are not represented on something that is going to impact every single one of us, and our livelihoods. And I really want an answer to that because I think there needs to be someone on the steering committee representing the Delta. Um -- the options that have come out of this -- um -- and also the DRMS is there's a lot of talk about an alternative conveyance, otherwise known as the Peripheral Canal. Um -- I want to know what studies will be done to determine the impact of the moving of significant amounts of water from the -- um -- from the Upper River near Hood. What will the extent of the salinity

intrusion into the Suisun Marsh, the Sacramento, and San Joaquin Rivers. This will impact our agricultural resources and every user of Delta water. Um -- what is the impact on the cross Delta transportation, the gas lines and the electrical lines of any action that is done. And I think you answered partly how will this interface with the Delta Vision Strategic Plan. Um -- it needs to basically be a part of that. There really should only be one plan. Thank you.

Mr. McGowan: Good evening. My name is Mike McGowan, the Yolo County Supervisor representing District 1, which includes the City of West Sacramento and the Community of Clarksburg and welcome to Clarksburg. We hope we provide you with a warm and lively welcome here. I think you'll get that today. My observation representing this area is that you will get very good, very intelligent, and very informed comments that you are looking for. We are frustrated at this point that -- and then in some ways we don't feel that there was really sufficient -- has been sufficient opportunity to participate and certainly to prepare for this meeting, although this large crowd seems to belie that -- that assertion. But nevertheless, we worked hard to get as many folks here to make comments as possible. But it does -- um -- what my observation is, and taking on

from the last speaker -- uh -- there is not a adequate opportunity as I see it, in the process for the -- both the local communities and the local jurisdictions to be directly involved. And whether that's actually at the steering committee level, or in some more formalized work group setting, it is imperative that you create a better opportunity to engage the varied jurisdictions that would be most directly affected and impacted by this. Uh -- one of the frustrations is what we see -- or what we perceive to be -- or perhaps fear is an attitude that there is some many other values that we're concerned about that -- that trump significantly the values of community that we -- that we represent here tonight, and the very important parts of our lives and lifestyles and economies, and the industries down here in the Delta. Clarksburg district is a thriving agricultural community. And Yolo County is working very hard to enhance the opportunities down here for our agricultural -- for the farmers and for the folks who live down here and who support that. What we are afraid of, and I think some of the preliminary suspicions or concerns that we have is that again, there will not be an adequate opportunity to really represent those concerns and help shape this project. I think that's the big -- the biggest function we have. Yolo County has a

general plan underway; much of what I am concerned about would run in direct conflict with our plans to revitalize, enhance, and support and nurture this part of the county. And primarily in an agricultural context. Seeing it become somebody else's water farm, or environmental habitat project at our considerable expense is unacceptable to us here in Clarksburg. I could go on. There are a number of concerns, specific concerns and questions we have. I've put -- I for one am concerned about the impact of additional flows from around -- more flows for a longer period of time along the -- uh -- in the bypass, down the deep water channel, and what those impacts would have in the surrounding jurisdictions, especially here in this particular area. But also for West Sacramento as well. West Sacramento is in the process of an extensive flood control project, and we're very concerned and curious about what other activities would be. Certainly we have concerns about the compatibility or lack thereof of a habitat plan that you all are working on or the one that Yolo County has been working on for a long time. And I think we have different goals in those plans. Certainly we would believe and expect that this particular project -- uh -- this plan would be collaborative work and harmonious with the work that's being done

by Yolo County. And -- uh -- I have someone else here this evening, Maria Wong, from -- uh -- in here to speak to you about that. So actually, in closing, I don't want to take much more time than I should -- I want to urge you to open the dialogue, to actually create a formalized place for places like Solano County, Yolo County, Sacramento County to be at the table. To be formally and legitimately represented in your conversations and your meetings. Um -- whether it's actually a member of the steering committee, which probably should have happened, with all -- and with all -- with all due respect, I look at the list of who we have on your steering committee, there's not one local jurisdiction. It's somewhat of an affront to me to see that it's places like Contra Costa, the Kern County Water District, and not any of the local jurisdictions that are more directly and immediately impacted by -- by what's going on here. So with that -- I thank you for coming. Hang onto your hats. It's going to be a good ride, but it's going to be an interesting one. And you'll learn a lot from the folks here in Clarksburg. So thanks again for taking your time to come down here and be our neighbors.

Chair: Thank you, Supervisor.

(Applause)

District Rep.: I'm at the microphone primarily to identify myself as being present. I'm District Representative for Congressman Mike Thompson who represents Clarksburg and large portions of Yolo County, and as many of you in the room probably know, he is a great champion on resources issues and received a very prestigious award from the Sierra Club just a few months ago. And is concerned both about the resource issues here, but also about the -- um -- the failure so far to engage our local jurisdictions. The process needs to be not just about the fish and the water, but about the land and the people who live here and who have farmed it through generations. So the sooner that the planning effort can become proactive and collaborative, I think that would be a win-win for all concerned. So thank you for allowing me this brief opportunity to speak.

Chair: Thank you very much. Okay, I'm going to go ahead and call names from the speaker cards that I have here. I have Maria Wong, Russell Van Logansells, and Ken Wilson. If you would come up.

Ms. Wong: Good evening. My name is Maria Wong. I'm the Executive Director of the Yolo Natural Heritage Program. And as Supervisor McGowan indicated just a few minutes ago, we're running a parallel process, another HCP and NCCP in Yolo County that the county has

been working on for many, many years, and I just wanted to remind some of the folks in the panel and the folks that are working in the BDCP that we are here, that we are interested in the same footprint that you all are working on, and that we look forward to collaborating and cooperating in the future on both of those efforts. I also wanted to comment very briefly on the content of some of the outreach materials that are coming forward. Um -- as I look at the BDCP Agenda, it's sometimes difficult to tell -- you know -- what the content of the meeting is going to be and where I need to pay attention. So I think the BDCP could do a little better job of indicating what's going to be discussed at the meetings going forward. Thank you very much.

Chair: Thank you.

Male: If I may just briefly. Uh -- he's not going to speak this evening, but I wanted to make sure that folks knew that -- uh -- the City of West Sacramento Mayor Christopher Cabaldo was here. He's also a member of the Delta Protection Commission, and many of my comments he shares. And so I wanted to make sure that you knew he was here.

Chair: Thank you for that. Thank you very much.

Mr. van Lobensels: My name is Russ van Lobensels. I'm a long time Delta resident all my life. And I jotted down just a few concerns that I have as you go forward with this conservation plan. You need to understand that when you put water in the Delta it doesn't stay where you put it. You can put it behind the levee and it pops up on the next island. So as you change -- as you plan to change the hydrology of the area, you need to be very careful about where you put water. You need to look at where -- what uses are on the property now. If it's intense farming, I would -- you know -- I think you should go some place else. There are opportunities in the North Delta to do what you want to do and to put together a good plan without making it very difficult for the intensive farming that occurs. I would encourage you to use boundaries that are known. Boundaries that exist today. And not cut across reclamation districts and create new boundaries. New boundaries bring all kinds of very unusual impacts. We have reclamation districts that operate for flood control and drainage that operate as a unit and they may not operate very well all split up. When you introduce species or create habitat that moves species around in the Delta you -- all you're doing is moving the impacts around from different people. If you move species away from the

water purveyors and you move them up into the Northern or the Western Delta, you create the same impacts for people who are using that water. You need to prepare and provide for mitigation for those impacts that you create for them. There are -- I believe -- opportunities in the Western Delta. You have a large area of public ownership in the bypass. You have an area that has flood easements already. It has water. And I think those are the areas that you should concentrate in the North Delta as your plan is developed. Finally, as you develop this plan, understand that we have many, many -- um -- many, many special districts that are dependent upon tax revenue. Yolo County -- if you make this a dedicated towards public ownership, you will destroy tax base for reclamation districts, mosquito districts, North Delta Water Agency, and Yolo County. So provide for that. Thank you very much.

Chair: Thank you.

(Applause)

Mr. Wilson: My name is Ken Wilson. I'm the president of Wilson Farms. I'm a third generation farmer. Um -- some of our guests here talked about the BDCP and some of the things that they are doing and I'm going to try not to sound too redundant, but -- uh -- what I had -- uh --

already written out beforehand was a little bit about what is the plan to mitigate threatening the endangered species. We have a host of wildlife species here in the Delta. Many animals I've seen -- um -- many animals I've never seen before 20 years ago are all of a sudden kind of showing up and in increasing but small numbers. Now these aren't all endangered, but I'm kind of putting in some other critters out there that are pretty well known as well. Maybe one or two that could be endangered, I'm not sure. But what looks to me like some mink I see trotting across the road once in a while. Otters, tree squirrels, Swainson's Hawks, Cottontail rabbits that disappeared for years, and have now come back. Now 1,000's of animals that live under the ground like snakes and many -- much of their prey. And I find it interesting listening at -- you know -- there are some species that are endangered that are worth taking, and some that aren't worth taking and it just kind of seems like -- uh -- God is among us here in the flesh sometimes. You must have a very extensive EIR on every single species that's out here that might be affected. We need to know of any and all endangered species. I would suspect that it would be -- it would take many years before you have enough data, and factual information being that you'll have

to cover 10's of 1,000's of acres just around our backyard here, and 100,000's of acres throughout the Delta if you're considering flooding. You'll also need to study adjacent lands to this project, because this project will have an enormous impact on these lands as well. We want to see a very detailed report before any of this begins. Thank you.

Chair: Thank you.

(Applause)

Chair: So next up I have Jeff Merwyn, Jane Alshorn -- I'm sorry if I mispronounce your names -- and Tim Waites.

Mr. Merman: Good evening. My name is Jeff Merwyn. I'm a 5<sup>th</sup> generation California farmer, 3<sup>rd</sup> generation here in the Delta. Thank you very much for the opportunity to speak tonight. Um -- I found out about this meeting yesterday, and I concur with what was said earlier about -- uh -- no stakeholders being part of the steering committee. Um -- I think that's unconscionable, frankly. Um -- but -- I'm going to go on. Um -- most of what my comments address have to do with -- uh -- four different options that we saw that actually appear to have been taken out of the Senate. A presentation to the Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee Hearing on the Governor's Delta

Actions by Lester Snow, Director of Department of Water Resources, March 11, 2008. And my understanding, and I'm also a Farm Bureau Director for Yolo County, I should have known about this through that, because they're part of the CFBF. I'm also a Yolo County Planning Commissioner. So I understand the EIR process. Okay, my understanding of the scoping is that we're here to scope the EIR, which is what you talked about. If you're doing an EIR, you already have a rough outline of what you're going to do. The fact that Lester Snow would address the Senate with documents with maps that include our area, scares me. Okay? Here we go. I urge you to cut -- and I'm very serious about this. This is going to sound kind of funny. I read it out loud and it sounded kind of funny, but I urge you to include at the top of your Protected Species List, the California Delta Farmer. Agriculture has co-existed --

(Applause and cheers)

Mr. Merwyn: -- agriculture has co-existed within the Delta environment since the Gold Rush. And all four options proposed as a conservation strategy appear to significantly threaten, if not completely exterminate, this vital species. I was under the impression that the Delta Protection Act was created in large measure to protect Delta agriculture. What

happened to that? I farm about 2100 acres in the Clarksburg area. I'm a -- just a typical farmer, okay? One of the primary crops that I grow is alfalfa for dairy hay. My 1,000 acres of alfalfa enables dairies to produce enough milk to supply 61,000 people their per capita consumption of milk per year. Don't let that 150 people fed by a farmer fool you. My neighbor grows 1,000 acres of processing tomatoes. We supply about 1.5 million people their per capita consumption of tomatoes per year. Clarksburg produces virtually the entire world supply of dichondra seed. In the hood of it, you're not alone. We are the tip of the iceberg. Yolo County is the 5<sup>th</sup> largest agricultural community and the leading agricultural state in the nation. Even though just 5% of Yolo County farming lies in the Delta, it generates more than 20% of this community's agricultural revenue. Not only are we helping to feed people, but we also pay property taxes in assessments on our farm land. So as tax and inputs in personal and corporate income taxes, too. We hire services and buy supplies from companies that help us fertilize, protect, harvest, and haul our crops. The people that help us grow our crops live on our farms. Many with their families. These farms are what make the Delta communities function. And when they hurt us, then

the communities wither. We are environmental stewards of our land and water. We'd be foolish not to be. The land provides our livelihood, and the water is our life blood. We are extremely careful about how we use our water, and we participate in the watershed coalition which monitors and helps improve our use of water. In my lifetime, I have seen a tremendous increase in the diversity of wildlife on my farm. One day last Fall -- last Fall I counted more than 150 Swainson's Hawks in one harvested wheat field that we were discing. We were all hunting. It was the most incredible site I've ever seen in my life. The Delta -- and -- and I didn't see them when I was a kid. They are here now. And I would agree with what Ken Wilson said, the Delta is a vital and an economic engine in a beautiful region to have in Northern California. All of the distinct and unique communities that exist in the Delta continue to exist to support agriculture. Eliminate agriculture to restore native habitat, and you will create the following problems adjacent to and up wind from metropolitan areas like Sacramento. No property tax revenue. No economic production. Increased mosquito pressure, what is now Bird Flu, and virulent encephalitis, malaria, and other insect pressures. The last couple of years out where I live, the minute

pirate bug has become particularly obnoxious to our quality of life. Spore a grain of rice and it fills every nook and cranny when it flies. Putrid odors born on the cooling Delta breeze would arise from lowlands since they dry out seasonally. I know exactly what you have to expect and look forward to. I live 200 yards from the Yolo Bypass, and I live downwind from government owned, managed wetlands.

Chair: Sir, if I could ask you to wrap up, please.

Mr. Merwyn: I'm wrapping it up. Because I love fishing, because of our location I benefit from relatively inexpensive and readily available water. I find it inconceivable that it would be more beneficial to the state to convert my ranch to tully's in order to allow a farm 100 miles from here to exist with much more expensive imported water. Or to even allow even 100 more houses to be built somewhere. Thank you very much.

Chair: Thank you.

(Applause)

Chair: Sir, I'm going to let -- uh -- Ms. Alshorn go. She's right here.

Mr. Waites: Oh.

Chair: Yeah, sorry. You need that.

Ms. Alshorn: Yes, I do, thank you. Good evening. My name is Jane Alshorn and it's perfectly obvious I am physically challenged. I am physically challenged and I want to speak to you tonight about the public health issue of more and extensive wetlands. I am in this wheelchair and have been since 2005 because of one mosquito bite. I contracted West Nile Virus. I will be paralyzed partially for the rest of my life. I can deal with that. What I can't deal with is having other people suffer the same fate. I spoke today with Vector Control. They have absolutely no idea of this entire project. I -- I have been their spokesman for the last three or one of their spokespersons for the last three years. And I cannot -- and there's no way that I can impress upon you the terrible, terrible danger of mosquitoes. It's -- it's far reaching. Your life can literally change overnight. Literally. One day I could walk, the next day I couldn't stand. And it's terribly, terribly important that we get all of the agencies involved that can help us in this sort of a situation. Yes, this is my personal ax to grind, but it's also my obligation to tell you that it could happen to you.

Female: (Whisper) Speak right into the mike because they can't hear you.

Ms. Alshorn: That's it.

(Applause)

Chair: Thank you very much. And Mr. Waites, okay.

Mr. Waite: My name is Tim Waites. I'm -- uh -- representing myself as a local landowner, and also the -- uh -- Clarksburg Association for Wine and Grape Growers and Vendors. Um -- first I want to talk about -- um -- private property. Um -- this area has a lot of large ranches on it, a lot of them farming grapes and alfalfa, and other things like that. And what that allows us to do is to work as a community to do some things that are very important for the area, but also very important for the Delta. I happen to live on a large lake in the area. Lake Winchester. And I selected that as my permanent home site. In fact, I have a foundation for a home going up there now. We work very closely with the people that are managing the water through a rec district. The landowners chip in. We have recreational activity that goes on in that lake through a water ski club. They chip in and maintain the banks on that. We work to keep the reeds and the other problems down jointly. And we get a lot of good things done. And we follow all of the regulations, too, which are becoming quite burdensome, very expensive for permits, and all of those sort of things. I'm sure you'll hear a little bit more about that from some of

the others. Um -- the other thing I want to switch gears to is -- uh -- the wine economy. Un -- our area has recently been named one of the best areas -- uh -- to develop and -- and farm wine grapes. It's -- it's got a lot of the resources that are lacking in other areas. We're not as well known as many of the others, but -- uh -- we produce a very, very fine product. We have about 10,000 acres currently in production, and we have another -- uh -- 2 or 3,000 coming on through long term contracts. Um -- so we have quite an uncommon hill to protect. We have homes. We have farms. We've got people spaced out far enough to where there is breathing room between. We don't want to become a subdivision. And we certainly don't want to become a flood pond. And, believe me, we have the resolve to fight. Whoever would -- would want us to go that way.

Chair: Thank you very much.

(Applause)

Chair: Okay, I have Katherine Merwyn, Andy Wallace, and Bill Worrell.  
Is that right? Okay.

Mr. Worrell: Yes.

Chair: Okay.

Mr. Wallace: I think Kathy Merwyn had to leave, so I'm going to jump in here.

My name is Andy Wallace. I live -- uh -- here in Clarksburg. I'm 3<sup>rd</sup> generation. My -- uh -- kid is right over here -- a 4<sup>th</sup> generation of Wallace's here in this town, and I have 12 acres of apples that are farmed by a local farmer here that -- that I own. So, I have a few procedural comments here. Number one, it is important to the people of Clarksburg and the people who are interested in the project from around the state to keep our comments in the record in their entirety. And not reduce our individual comments into general or combined comments. Number two, the documented and undocumented impacts of this plan directly and indirectly affect the people of Clarksburg. Yet, the people of Clarksburg carry the burdens but get none of the benefits of this project. Number three, this admirable goal for quote, "fixing the Delta" is meaningless if at the end of the day it ends up creating just enough smoke to keep transferring more water to Southern California. There is nothing co-equal --

(Applause)

Mr. Wallace: -- there is nothing co-equal in California water politics. The Delta and its people are always going to come last. Number four, the nature and character of the Delta today is recognized as valuable in

this document, yet our redevelopment interests are specifically rejected by this document, replaced with the unbridled growth of Southern California. This is an arbitrary and capricious attempt to shift the burden of development on the very people who are themselves not able to develop. I'll assess some technical issues. Number one, tidal marsh wetlands have significant odor problems as anyone who has driven by one knows. Thus create objectionable and nuisance odors for the community. How will these be mitigated? With regards to the restoration of these tidal marsh wetlands, Clarksburg has never had this type of wetland. We are too far north, so it would be impossible to restore what we have never had. Number two, by improving habitat for Delta smelt, other listed species could begin using the area, and potentially be creating new legal issues for the community further reducing our ability to exercise our property rights. How will the community be protected from the consequences of this likely impact? Consider this a request for a Clarksburg safe harbor agreement. Number three, if West Nile Virus increases in this area, it is expected to have significant impacts on native birds. How were these impacts analyzed and mitigated for? Number four, water transfer should be deleted from this

process and the health of the water shed should be the primary focus of these efforts. If it could be proven that the species that use the Delta can be managed sustainably over droughts, then you'd begin discussing water transfer. Number five, converting fresh water habitat to brackish water habitat will have negative influences on the ecosystems that have adapted to the upper Delta, leaving this area as one of the last reservoirs of species such as listed turtles and birds. Now the state wants to reduce their habitat for a fish that is largely limited by Southern California's water intakes. The sole purpose of this document is an attempt to comingle the issues of habitat restoration and water supply. Finally, loss of farmland in the Delta will have ripple effects with ag equipment suppliers, truck dealers, seed suppliers, etcetera, where good paying stable jobs will be directly impacted and lost. How will this plan mitigate the losses of those jobs? Thank you.

Chair: Thank you.

(Applause and cheers)

Mr. Worrell: Thank you for -- uh -- letting me speak today. I'm definitely not a public speaker. My name is Bill Worrell. I'm a native of Antioch, California. We're probably like the striped bass, I'm not a real

native, because I've only -- my family has only been here one generation. I'm a fat, disabled old man, probably not safe to drive the Delta roads after dark. I'm representing the Sportsmen's Yacht Club in Antioch, and mainly myself. The reason we're here today is public trust. You folks are -- are trusted or entrusted with the public trust. It's not to do about water. It's not to do about money. It's public trust. You are public officials, public employees, you owe us the trust. Alternative conveyance, Peripheral Canal, or Love Canal, it's wrong. California voters approved a \$4 billion dollar bond issue to repair and improve the levees. This is what the public warrants. Not a cement lined canal. Who cares about the Delta smelt? It's a small ugly fish. It's a barometer for the ecosystem though. Today there's no salmon fishing in California. Folks care about that. It's been forecasted that little guy, the Delta smelt has forecasted it. No salmon fishing in California. This follows no or limited what they call bottom fish in the ocean. Use to be you could catch a gunny sack full of bottom fish. Now you could catch 10, now it's limited. We blame pollution. Blame farming pollution. We even blame the striped bass. We've lost Riparian Water rights in Antioch. Go back to the Gold Rush. The water is not fit to pump. Canal will make

Contra Costa water unable to drink -- unsuitable to drink. We can't take more water. It's public trust. Thank you.

Chair: Thank you.

(Applause)

Chair: Jerry Spain -- is that right? Mark Wilson, and Mary McTaggart.

Mr. Wilson: Mark Wilson, with Wilson Farms and Vineyards in Clarksburg. And as far as the scoping issues, I have some questions. Is the BCDC Plan consistent, or will it be consistent with the Delta Protection Act legislation and management plan in all respects? How much water will this plan consume month by month on an annual basis? How will public health and nuisances from increased insect populations be dealt with, especially considering prevailing wind patterns and proximity to small and large population centers. How will invasive species be reliably excluded from new tidal wetlands and shallow water habitat? What mitigation measures will be taken for each of the known invasive species that already inhabit the Delta if they become established in any new tidal wetlands or shallow water habitat? Considering the increase in the amount of habitat recommended, and the desired current activity of the various habitat types, how will invasive species be reliably excluded from

the tributaries to the Delta? What mitigation measures will be taken for each of the known invasive species that already inhabit the Delta if they become established in any of the tributaries of the Delta? How will the increase in number and concentration of tunneling and burrowing animal species that will derive from the increased available habitat affect infrastructure in and around the edges of the Delta? What are the projected labor requirements and projected costs with and without overhead costs included for the management of the new habitat that is proposed? What formulas and assumptions will be used in calculating these costs? And I'd like to see these -- uh -- these costs -- uh -- going out to 2050, so we can get a better view of -- uh -- the total cost of the proposed actions. What is the financing structure going to be for all phases of the proposed physical and management changes from the BDCP Plan? From its execution onward through the 2050 and out 100 years. Thank you.

(Applause)

Chair: Thank you.

Mr. Wilson: And we turn in questions to who? I've written documents to turn in.

Chair: Yeah -- written comments and questions at the back table where Ms. Wong is.

Mr. Spain: Good evening. My name is Jerry Spain, resident of Clarksburg, Chair of the Clarksburg General Plan Advisory Committee. A couple of things about your -- as I'm watching and listening to this. First comment is, if it wasn't for one of our local citizens hearing about this meeting tonight, you wouldn't have anybody here.

(Applause)

Mr. Spain: That doesn't get us all off to the most trusting starts. Secondly, as we're going through this, even your own information -- uh -- it all points to diversional water. It's almost like this whole -- everything is about diversion. Protect the fish, get a judge off your back, and convey water. Secondly, the model assumptions. Are these the same model assumptions that they're using elsewhere throughout the state? There's several of them. Which one is the right one? DWR has about a 16-inch model assumption if the earth continues to warm. And even that model is suspect. There's a lot of folks that say that it's not warming. So here we are fixing to create a policy that is going to go and stretch out 50 years beyond, out to 100 years? When I was in high school, I remember one of my teachers telling us that the best thing we could do for mankind is figure out how to stop global cooling.

(Laughter)

Mr. Spain: Also, as I'm looking through here, one thing I don't see or in any of this literature, is the human habitants of the Delta. No mention whatsoever.

(Applause)

Mr. Spain: I find that to be a critical oversight, because human beings that have grown up in this Delta and created this Delta have been the stewards of this Delta for 100's of years. It's not the Delta Vision nor is it the BDCP. We have to be very concerned about the direction that you want to take us. Especially when the stakeholders themselves -- there is not an elected official on any of these. They are authorities. They are water agencies and districts. And who are these folks beholding to? It's not the voters. That has a lot of us very concerned when as we read through this stuff, and try to figure out when as the direction of this is ironed out, who answers to who, and who is going to answer if this whole thing turns out to be a huge problem for all of us. You've heard a lot of concerns about vector control, about potential taking of species, I'm concerned about the taking of land, the taking of water, and the taking of a way of life.

Thanks.

Chair: Thank you.

(Applause)

Ms. McTaggart: My name is Mary McTaggart. I'm a resident of Reclamation District 307, which is just north of here. I grew up here. My 96-year-old father and my 90-year-old mother live next door, and my grandparents came here in the 20's. I've just come back recently. I just found out about this meeting, so I can't be quite as articulate as the people who have already spoken, but one thing has been on my mind recently. I was reading in the beginning of the Delta Vision document where it says -- it's talking about the history of the Delta and how it was formed or let's say how the levees were formed, and it says to quote, "when levees were built, most celebrated the new farmland and few thought of what might be lost." And I'm worried about that. Because I see now that there's a new interest in the Delta. It sounds like we want to go back to the way things were, and yet, I don't think people are thinking much about what might be lost, namely the farming land that was produced in the beginning. Um -- today's paper, there's an article in here about a scientist questioning whether so much land should be diverted to raising ethanol. Now it's growers and farmland that are doing that, and yet, the scientists

who are -- um -- they're saying we need to feed our stomach before we feed our cars. Nations need to rethink programs that divert food such as corn and soy beans into fuel, given the burgeoning worldwide food crisis. Um -- you can't grow -- you can grow ethanol on farmland, but you can't grow food on anything else. And so, I'm just worried about the loss of the farmland we have here. Some of the richest farmland in the world. You know -- I think that I read recently that the United States became a net importer of food sometime in the last two years for the first time in its history. Now that's kind of scary. The other thing that I see relative to this is the fact that there's a lot of plans going around, or thoughts going around about turning farmland into habitat, or wildlife friendly farming. I think that's the term that I've seen all the time. And I even understand that the governments are preparing to pay farmers so that they will farm in this way. Okay? But you know -- it bothers me a little bit, and it worries me, because governments can't react to needs like private enterprise. For example, if you drive around this area this year -- right now -- you will see acres, and acres, and acres of wheat. Two years ago you didn't see hardly any. Now how did that happen? Well, there's a need for wheat. But if the government

was involved in deciding whether to farm wheat this year, it might even take 10 years before they could come to that decision. And you know what? I just -- I just can't -- you know -- and as soon as you have an ag conservation easement or wildlife habitat easement on your land, then you have a silent partner that isn't going to be so silent. And I think that the farming industry will be affected by that. Um -- I think that's all I have to say at this point. Thank you.

Chair: Thank you very much.

(Applause)

Chair: Sue Stevenson, Martin Hill, Peter Stone.

Ms. Stevenson: Good evening. Thank you for holding this meeting. My name is Sue Stevenson. I live in Livermore, California. It's a little under 100 miles away from here, so I drove a long way to come and talk to you tonight. I work at Dublin/San Ramon Services District. We're a water, waste water, recycled water, retailer. So I'm very concerned about the State of California's infrastructure water system throughout the entire state on several different levels. Um -- I feel like it's struggling to meet the needs not only of the aquatic life forms, but also the people who want to drink the water that's supposed to pass through this Delta, and the farmlands that need it

for irrigation purposes. So we need a sustainable water system for the entire State of California, and I think a critical part of that sustainable water system is a sustainable Delta. And so we need to improve the Delta. And what that means -- the Delta affects all the other ways that the California water system functions. We recycle water in the Valley. That's a big part of how we're able to maintain our Valley and to have a green valley by recycling water for irrigation purposes. And that's a critical tool, but without a sustainable Delta, that's going to impact things like recycled water and local storage of water, and all other elements that are part of the entire infrastructure. So, in essence, no action is not an option. You need to act -- I always am amazed how long it takes to make things happen with the government. Echoing a little bit of what the previous speaker said. So I encourage you to act and in a thoughtful way. And I also would like to say, at the risk of upsetting most of the people in this room, I think of the Delta as the heart and soul of the entire California water system, and maybe bypass surgery -- maybe a canal, a pipeline, an alternative water conveyance system would be a good thing. And it would make it a sustainable Delta, which would make a sustainable water system. Thank you very

much.

Chair: Thank you.

Mr. Hill: Hi, my name is Martin Hill. I'm a resident here in Clarksburg. I have a few questions. I believe here in the Sacramento Region that - that the gopher snake and the Swainson's Hawk are both on the highest part of the endangered species list. I'd like to know -- I'd like to know with you folks if the endangered species list -- if one species trumps another? Um -- I don't believe that these things could survive in a marsh wetlands. Um -- the other question I understood tonight by listening, that the concerns of a seismic event were almost imperative. The fact of the matter is I don't believe there's ever been a seismic event here in the Delta, and I would like to know where that information comes from. And third, but not least, if this is just another futile way to get water to L.A., why don't we just bypass all of this and you just tell us that that's really the way it is? So -- anyhow, I'm done.

Chair: Thank you.

(Applause)

Mr. Stone: Hello, my name is Peter Stone, and I'm a resident. I live on a farm just across the river, but consider myself a part of Clarksburg, which

is a town that has one of the distinctions of one of the longest running Boy Scout Troops in America, 80 years with 100 Eagle Scouts, two of which are mine. And I consider it a privilege to be a part of this community.

(Applause)

Mr. Stone: Unfortunately as a number of speakers have mentioned, I've only had about 40 minutes before the meeting started to even find out. I had plans tonight. I had to cancel those plans to come here. And so I apologize in advance for the fact that unlike some speakers, my comments won't focus on EIR's and EIS's and BC's and HC's and PC's and things. But actually, the one thing that really got my attention in the -- in the presentation where out of all those letters that I couldn't understand, was the chart that showed the two circles. Conservation of Species, and Water Sources -- equal and one won't trump the other. But I didn't see anything about levees, which sort of tie into preserving the farmland and the people's homes, and sort of what goes on around here. And -- and I'm concerned, because I live on the levee, and I really appreciate the efforts of those folks from State Water Resources Board to drive around trying to take care of our levees. I really appreciate what they do. Have a chance

to talk to a lot of them. Because I'm around. I work at -- at my home. So I'm there all the time. And when they come by, I go out to see them. And I appreciate what they do, but I'm frustrated. Because when I talk to them, just the regular workers, not the guys with any fancy titles, they talk to me about the things that they know should be done to protect the levees, but the other group that's on the other side of the levee won't let them touch -- the Fish and Game won't -- you know -- they're totally on the opposite side of things. So I'm concerned as I hear about all this new planning that's going on. How do we make sure that conflicting assumptions at various federal and state agencies will in fact not just be perpetuating things that don't work, by their own admission. You know -- I'm just concerned, sort of with the notion of, well, it's all about global warming, or is it global cooling, or -- you know -- what's the flavor of the decade. Okay, and with just a couple of other things -- you know -- when I was looking at one of the charts over on the side there, it sounds like -- you know -- there's a big focus on the diversion of water for Southern California. And it sounded like it's - - you know -- the system is broken and so we must fix it. Okay, that's great. But are we gonna fix it where all the fix is required to

come out of reducing the water rights and everything of folks here, versus saying that the Southern California water is inviolate? They get every ounce of whatever it is that they're supposed to get, but it all comes out of the hides of the folks here in the Delta, which means a lack of farming. Another thing I just thought was very interesting - - you know -- and this is just an observation. A lot of these -- these species of animals -- Canadian Geese, Swainson's Hawks, pheasants, Sandhill Cranes, we just love seeing them fly over and they don't read the signs. They stop on our farm. You know -- they just love it. I mean -- huge, huge flocks of these birds, that don't know they're supposed to go over to the Stonelake's Wildlife Preserve. They stop at our farm. We love to see them, and they love it there for some reason. So I think we've got to realize that just what comes up in a text book or a neat study doesn't necessarily mean that that's the way it works.

Chair: Thank you.

(Applause)

Chair: Julia McKiver, D.J. Anderson, and Steve Harringer.

Ms. McKiver: Good evening. My name is Julia McKiver. I'm actually here representing Yolo County. Um -- I wanted to thank you for making

this effort to involve the public in this state and federal planning effort. And I would certainly echo the comments of Supervisor McGowan earlier and add one more point, perhaps. Um -- the county would like it to be very clear to the state and federal agencies and all of the other folks that are involved in creating BDCP that heretofore, local government has been excluded from the process, and that needs to change. You are hearing a lot of -- I think -- very interesting, valid and smart concerns from the folks that are here tonight. Yolo County is involved in the process of a general plan update, and part of that update includes specific proposals to protect the viability of agriculture in this area and enhance the vitality -- the economic vitality of this region. We'll be sending you a letter describing this in a lot more detail for the written record, and we're counting on you to restructure the BDCP development process to make it possible for us to work with you as we move forward.

Thank you.

Chair: Thank you.

(Applause)

Ms. Andreson: Hello. Thank you for listening to me tonight. My name is D.J. Andreson. I've been a resident here for 20 years, and I'm a lucky

survivor of West Nile Virus. Um -- although I still suffer some of the symptoms, I consider myself fortunate because I lived. I understand one in four don't. Uh -- Charles McDowell from Grand Island was not so lucky and he passed away due to a long illness caused by West Nile Virus. It's a devastating disease, and we don't have a handle on it. We still have birds dying out here. We have chickens contracting the disease. And people are getting sick. Building a shallow water refuge here is paramount to creating an incubator for West Nile Virus. And that would infect the entire Sacramento Valley, not just little Clarksburg. Um -- if the proposal is to eradicate the mosquitoes that will come with that water, using the -- uh -- what is it the Evergreen 60-C that we're using now, that will also kill all the other insects, beneficial and otherwise. And the fish that we're trying to save, will die with no food. I urge you to reconsider using our area. Thank you.

Chair: Thank you.

(Applause)

Mr. Harringer: Good evening Committee Members. I'm Steve Harringer, 5<sup>th</sup> of 6 generations of Harringer family to farm Clarksburg soils. Many families in the Delta have farmed multiple generations. And over

the years have grown a large variety of row and field crops. We have had to evolve and adapt our operations in order to maintain economic viability to ensure the sustainability of the family farm for future generations. During the last four decades the growers have planted over 17,000 acres of our Upper Delta Region in premium wine grapes. Our crops have proliferated in quality and yield, and the Clarksburg Delta has earned the reputation of being the Banana Belt for premium wine grapes among California wineries. We have invested heavily in vineyards which have a life expectancy of 25 to 30 years. And can stay economically viable for up to a century. In 2005, the UC Cooperative Extension published cost to establish and produce wine grapes in our region. The study documents the requirement of in excess of \$16,000 per acre to develop a good vineyard. During the past 3 years of dramatically increasing steel, vine, labor, and fuel costs, that investment will easily be in excess of \$20,000 per acre today. That equates to a total investment in vineyards and infrastructure alone exceeding \$340 million dollars in District 17, the Upper Delta Region. The California Association of Wine Grape Growers completed an economic impact study last year of California wine and grape growers contribution to the state and

U.S. economy. Extrapolating those economic impacts to just our 17,000 acres of wine grapes, we create in excess of 11,000 full time equivalent jobs in California, and an additional 13,500 jobs nationwide. This generates \$357 million dollars in California wages and almost \$900 million dollars in wages throughout the U.S.A. Taxes generated from our wine grape acreage exceed \$107 million dollars to the State of California, and an additional \$64 million dollars nationally. In excess of 700,000 visitors with tourism expenditures exceeding \$71 million dollars are attributable to our 17,000 acres of grapes. Our Yolo County Supervisors have partnered with us to keep our unique Upper Delta area agricultural. We adopted sustainability generations ago to ensure the farming and enjoyment of our Delta region for the benefit of all of the people of our great state. We will not now stand by idly as the objects of an environmental experiment based on presumptions. We will, however, stand with you to fully utilize existing flood control infrastructure such as Yolo Bypass to ensure better flood protection for the Sacramento Area. Thank you.

Chair: Thank you.

(Applause and cheers)

Chair: Let's see, I have Peggy -- I'm sorry, I can't read the last name, Peggy. Boehl? Okay. Great, sorry. Uh -- Bob Webber, and Hal Shiplet -- Shipley, thank you.

Ms. Boehl: Good evening. My name is Peggy Boehl. I am not a farmer -- do I -  
- nor do I make any pretenses to know anything about farming.  
However, I was quite concerned when I received that email yesterday stating that Clarksburg and our rich farmland was going to be turned into a tidal marsh. It almost drew me to a flashback when I was shopping in Costco a week ago and I saw rice being rationed. Rice being rationed in the United States of America? It was almost inconceivable. But news reports followed where the same might happen with wheat. There is a world crisis before us in agriculture. For example, in Northern China, wheat production has ceased because of a lack of water. Everyone in this room knows about the human suffering that occurs in Darfur and Somalia because of starvation. So what do we have here in Clarksburg? Under state law, Clarksburg is an agriculturally protected area. The Delta Protection Act of 1992 fathers the Agricultural Uses. The farms in Clarksburg grow so many varied crops, grapes, walnuts, pears, that I probably would use up my 3 minutes in talking about them all. The

yields here are incredibly high due to the rich farming and climactic conditions. These conditions are relatively unknown in other parts of the world in agricultural areas. And it's amazing but Clarksburg represents only 5% of the land area in Yolo County and produces 22% of Yolo's rich production. To deny that production would be devastating to not only the county, but to our farmers. And in conclusion, the question that I ask you to answer when you do your EIR, are you planning to do a cost benefit analysis of these 30 to 40,000 acres taken out of food production for world markets and human consumption if a tidal marsh should be implemented here. I really cannot believe that a tidal marsh concept will ever come to fruition here in Clarksburg with its rich agricultural tradition. There is a place for tidal marsh, but not here. To do it here would be shameful. The Yolo Bypass can be expanded. Liberty Island, and other islands to the south of the Delta are perfect candidates. There is a world food crisis. Humans will surely become an endangered species if we continue to violate our agricultural areas and take rich farmland out of production. Thank you very much.

Chair: Thank you.

(Applause)

Mr. Webber: Good evening. I am Bob Webber. I'm the manager of Reclamation District 999.

Chair: Could you move the microphone up? Yeah -- thank you.

Mr. Webber: So welcome to Reclamation District 999. We have a couple of people that -- uh -- with a one day's notice can provide a little entertainment for you. The Clarksburg District 999 was formed in August 10<sup>th</sup> of 1913. It was formed under the Reclamation Act of 1868. We are very concerned that to convert this area to wetlands would eliminate our district, eliminate flood control as we maintain and operate 33 miles of federal project levees. We maintain and deliver irrigation water to 25,000 acres. And we maintain 260 miles of ditches, which are filled with invasive weeds which just raise heck with us. And if you create any kind of wetlands, and you don't have a solution to the invasive weeds that are coming from Asia and all around the world, you won't get what you think you're going to get. You're going to get a mess. The district is very proactive and environmental friendly. Erosion control projects on our levees. We do brush boxes. We plant tully's along the water's edge. We plant willow trees, and we're really able to let the rivers and byways generate riparian areas along the edge of the water. We've put in a

fish screen this last year that screens for Delta smelt and for salmon. So we divert the water off the Sacramento River, and we are currently screened and we are currently participating in protecting the species that you choose to protect as well. We would ask when you do your EIR process, and your -- as you do your plan, that you carefully consider that you're in compliance with all the federal and state reclamation law. And that you also when you use water for a wetlands, you're gonna be using water, and we ask that you carefully evaluate the current water rights law, and how your plan effects water rights of the people in the Delta. Thank you.

Chair: Thank you.

(Applause)

Mr. Shipley: I'm Hal Shipley I'm a director of the Clarksburg Fire Protection District, and I'm sort of surprised that folks are talking about the lack of time. Our firefighters have a turnaround time of six minutes. So a full day seems very appropriate. I've had an opportunity to review the draft of the Conservation Strategy and the four options that it encompasses. And I have some major concerns. First , I would just like to say that any flooding that would prevent access to our emergency vehicles anywhere in the Clarksburg District would

be very detrimental to the folks who live here. We need access and we can't allow in any way flooding of the farmlands around that area. We have 331 farm units in the Clarksburg District. 243 of those are small farms, 50 acres or less, and quite a few of them are 20 acre farms. We owe these folks -- these farmers a duty of protection, and that's the Fire Protection District's job -- is to provide emergency access to medical care and fire prevention. We have on average 52 medical aid calls a year. About 26 vehicle related calls that's either accidents or fires of vehicles. These numbers seem sort of small, but when you consider that it may be your parents, your sons, daughters, or yourself who has the emergency, then I think you'd consider this probably the most important moment of your life just to have someone respond. And that's what our district is about. Our district has a great need -- a tremendous need for a new firehouse. And we're working on that. But we're looking for a location to build it, and we need funds to build it. Funds have been a major obstacle for our Fire Protection District for many years. We cover an area of approximately 53 miles -- square miles. The Dunn and Bradstreet's Zap Database shows Clarksburg with 70 businesses, 29 of which are agricultural.

These businesses provide employment for 540 employees, which represents about 41% of our population of his district, and about 44% of the income to the Fire Protection District. To provide health, welfare services and the necessary coverages for the district, we cannot allow the district to be flooded. We just can't. Thank you.

Chair: Thank you.

(Applause)

Chair: I'm going to try this one, Don Kenochio? Is that right? Or close?  
And Topper-van Logansels.

Mr. Fenochio: Good evening. Thank you for being here, even though it was short notice. My name is Don Fenochio. I've lived in Clarksburg for over 55 years. My mother's family came to Clarksburg long before that. She was born in our area over 100 years ago. A little history here. Her family farmed, fished, and hunted in this area. My wife and her family have also an equally long history here. I came back to work in the Clarksburg system -- in the school system because I felt I had a dedication to the Delta. A dedication to the small towns, and to the people who inhabit them. I served as an educator for almost 40 years, right here in the Delta, in this very room, from Clarksburg to Rio Vista. The Delta is more than a water shed. It's more than a

delivery system to areas south of us. It's home to a large number of people who have made their homes here. Have made their living here. Have raised their children here. And who have worked hard to make the Delta a wonderful place to live. A wonderful place to raise their children. Incidentally, as I look at all the posters, I don't see any of the most endangered species to which Mr. Merwyn alluded. And that's people.

(Applause)

Mr. Fenochio: The Delta -- the Delta is a location of a number of small historical towns that have survived the difficulties of being in a flood plain. All of the citizens of the Delta have contributed to the preservation of a way of life that has developed into a strong society. Any plan to change these historic places -- these historic towns just appall me. And when I speak of the towns, I'm also speaking of the surrounding farm areas. Those people who farm out there around the little towns are also members of the town. This kind of plan that I see here actually stops any kind of growth and progress that is necessary to maintain the character of these small towns. The plan that I see being presented will destroy the character of the Delta towns. You should, and you must, study plans to protect these existing

communities. The EIR must study the impacts of a myriad of community issues, including but not limited to such issues as declining population, the effect of such plan on schools. The existing community habitats. Health, the existing environment. Social activities including churches, scouting, fire services, libraries, police protection, as well as regular community social activities. These existing Delta communities cannot be discounted. They are an important part of the State of California. Your EIR must address these and other community concerns. How will you protect the people of our important communities? How do you protect -- plan to protect the way of life that has endured for more than 100 years? Please, in your EIR tell us how you will do that. Thank you.

Chair: Thank you.

(Applause)

Mr. Fenochio: Incidentally -- incidentally, I encourage each member of this panel to read this book, *The Great Thirst*, written by Norris Dudley, Jr. And it has to do with all the water wars that occurred in Southern California. The main character here is named Molholland. I hope we don't have someone by that name around here.

Chair: Thank you.

Mr. Fenochio: Thank you.

(Applause)

Mr. van Lobensels: Good evening. As Steve Harringer was up in front of you telling you how many generations of his family -- I began counting on my fingers. Steve, you've got me beat by one generation. My name is Topper van Lobensels, Delta landowner and member of the Delta Protection Commission. There are several commissioners here this evening, and we take our job very, very seriously. And we're charged with many, many things, but some of our key responsibilities are number one, preserve and protect ag lands. Number two, preserve and protect those reclamation districts that allow those ag lands to flourish. Number three, protect tax base, tax base for the county, tax base for the schools, tax base for those districts. And number four, to attempt to minimize flooding in any way we can of Delta lands. And when I got here this evening, I walked over and I looked at Station #4, and that would have tremendous draft negative impacts on all four. And so -- it's one of those things that if you're not familiar with this area, and you live someplace else and you get out a map and you start drawing lines on the map and you don't know what's there, it would be easy to make

the mistake that you've -- you've made. Several in the room here were at an all day Delta Vision Meeting. At the end of the meeting I walked up to the moderator and I said, do you know anything about BDCP? What's this all about? And he said, he wanted me to enter into the public testimony that BDCP and Delta Vision are not related. They are two entirely separate processes at this point. But being realistic, here's my fear, if this gets traction, and it gets a name, and it starts moving forward, this may be merged at some point with Delta Vision. So I think we have to be very, very careful as we -- uh -- as we move forward that we don't give something a name that may never, ever have any traction. So what I -- what I would like to do is recommend to you exactly what the Delta as a place is recommending to Phil Isenberg. Is number one, I don't know and you don't know -- the scientists don't know if what you're proposing here is going to work. So number one, it has to be reversible. It has to be an experiment or a test spot that's reversible. When you remove pear trees, you remove wineries, and you remove trees, that's not reversible. So, I'm going to say to you what I said to the Isenberg committee. Number one, has to be reversible. Number two, you're always going to go to publicly owned property first with

an experiment. And that's federal or state owned property. If you can't find federally or state owned property, you go to where property has a cloud on the title. The cloud is already there via some sort of easement or a flood easement is the perfect example. If that map number four, if this project were moved just a few miles to the west, and if it was in the middle of the Yolo Bypass, you'd have a handful of people in this room. So, maybe somebody is not really familiar with the lay of the land. The other issue that I want to point out to you, the State of California bought 12,000 acres a few miles west of us. The Glide Ranch, owned by the Department of Fish and Game. So I would like to direct you to that parcel to do your experimentation and just remember that we're all concerned about flood control. And so you can do your experimentation there, the way the Vic Fazio Refuge -- if you go and look at that refuge, there's water moving through that refuge, but you have to conduct anything in the bypass so that it's flood neutral. So those are recommendations I'd like to leave you with. Thank you.

Chair: Thank you.

(Applause)

Chair: I don't have any other speaker cards. But I just want to see if there

are any other folks that would like to make a comment that didn't provide a speaker card. So -- um -- Paul, if you would give -- make sure that we get a speaker card.

Ms. Klotz: I really didn't come prepared to say anything tonight. I didn't really have enough time because as my friends around Clarksburg all know, I can usually talk to a post. I have only one question --

Chair: Please state your name first.

Ms. Klotz: -- I'm sorry. Jane Klotz.

Chair: Thank you.

Ms. Klotz: K-L-O-T-Z. And I have just one question to ask of the commission. Uh -- we owned a ranch in Sacramento County. And we were the recipients of eminent domain because the state wanted to put a highway through here. Am I not talking through that? So I-5 divided our ranch in Sacramento County, and naturally we thought they didn't pay us enough. But they said, oh, you're going to have a great piece of property there for commercial. And so you're going to have highway commercial, and you can make up the money that way. Well, obviously we didn't fight it. But, the very interesting thing is, that in developing that small piece of commercial property, it cost \$3,000.00 to relocate one burrowing owl. It took a nest of

Swainson's Hawk and they had a perimeter of 10 acres that had to be accounted for in order to protect the Swainson's Hawk. My question is, where are the burrowing owls going to go, and where are the Swainson's Hawk going to go if we flood all the area where we now have relocated the burrowing owl and the Swainson's Hawk? Thank you.

Chair: Thank you.

(Applause)

Chair: Father Madigan.

Father Madigan: My name is Father Van Madigan. I'm the pastor of the church here in the Delta. I -- sitting here tonight reminded me, I come from a generation -- generations and generations of farmers. I'd like to say something to the farmers tonight. Not to the politicians, not to the people sitting up front. But to you farmers. I came from generations and generations of farmers in a beautiful part of island. And I saw a group of people moving in here like tonight and destroying our beautiful countryside. And they did it by holding a little meeting -- in little meetings that they didn't tell anybody about. And before it really caught on there wasn't a doggone thing you could do about it. In fact, you stand upon that beautiful hill and my farmland and our

farmland and you look down, you saw what happened. I would say here tonight, I listened to all of you speaking, and listened to all the farmers, you were crystal clear in what you had to say. You spoke because you have integrity, you have indecency (sic) and you're for real. People up here, good folks, your staff members and all that, you're out here, and you're kind of -- tonight I heard you kind of almost making excuses you -- for yourself in explaining yourself to these people. You have power. Use your power.

(Applause)

Father Madigan: If you can get here tonight on almost a 12-hour notice, could you imagine what we can do down the way. You are not going to let anybody come in and railroad anything here over the community. Hang in there.

Chair: Thank you.

(Applause and cheers)

Chair: Gary Merwyn.

Mr. Merwyn: Hopefully I can read my own chicken scratch here. I'm the newcomer. I'm just a 3<sup>rd</sup> generation farmer. And I'm a trustee for Reclamation District 999. My understanding the reason we're here, and that these people exist is because the Delta is sick. Our part

where we live right here is beautiful. Especially out where you -- all these plans call for putting my house in a swamp. I love -- I love facts that I read in the paper, and -- uh -- let's look at some facts. Right now we're at 80% snowpack in the Sierras. The dams are only 50 to 60% full. Down south they're cutting back to 35% water. There's more water coming out of the dams right now today than is going in from the snowpack coming off. And we're talking about fixing what broke it. These plans all work on the symptoms like NyQuil. What broke the Delta was trying to just -- is trying to export six and a half million acre feet of water from the Delta that the water shed cannot support. Period. Those are facts.

(Applause)

Chair: Thank you. That looks like we'll wrap things up here in terms of comments with M.P. Albertini.

Ms. Albertini: It's -- people always (inaudible) my first name.

Chair: I'm sorry?

Ms. Albertini: Okay, it's -- it doesn't really matter. Okay, let's see here. I just have a couple of things to say. One is I'm hoping that -- uh -- both the Delta Commission and -- um -- the BDCP or all the other acronyms used for that today. I was waiting for ee-ii-ee-ii-oo.

There were so many of them.

(Laughter and applause)

Ms. Albertini: They don't -- they don't overstep their bounds. We have the Delta Protection Commission who on a whole does a fabulous job. When they were first brought together, one of the things some of the farmers did talking to them when putting the committee together was that they weren't going to stop progress. Weren't going to touch farmland, but they wouldn't stop progress. I know for a fact that they have building housing here in the Delta. So I'm hoping that you two don't overstep your boundaries by saying one thing and doing something else. My family have been -- uh -- farming in the Delta for three years, but I come from a farming family of 10 generations. I'm worried about our livelihood here in the Delta, about our fabulous farmers, about economic growth. Um -- we have -- uh -- Gold Medal wines that they don't even have anywhere else in the country. Those are quality. But I really want to back up again to -- I don't want to see that you overstep your bounds. I don't want to see that there's going to be eminent domain. This is fabulous farmland that if they don't have anywhere else and it needs to be protected. Thank you.

Chair : Hank you.

(Applause)

Chair: That's all I have for speaker -- oh -- we have one more? Okay.

Ms. Beck: Hi -- uh -- my name is Amanda Beck. It used to be Amanda Parr for those who knew me. Um -- I do environmental analysis, so I kind of just came down to see what's going on in my community with -- um -- with this plan. And I guess the first thing that came to mind was really about this conveyance. And about mitigation ratios associated with that conveyance. Um -- other potential alternatives for mitigation ratios. I'd like to see that analyzed. To see -- if you're going to take land, there's going to have to be a Take Permit. Where are you going to get the land? Because that's the big concern that I see -- is -- that land is there, but it's being farmed. So, I guess that's it. That's just a comment.

Chair: Thank you.

(Applause)

Chair: If you have not signed the sign in sheet, please do so, so that the next meeting we can get an email blast to you that gets to you. And I just want to say sincerely thank you all so much for coming. Thank you for taking the time to be here, and to review all the information, and

please, also take a comment card and get your comments -- further comments in by May 30<sup>th</sup>. Thank you all very much.

**-- MEETING ADJOURNED --**