

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
LOWER KLAMATH PROJECT LICENSE SURRENDER

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REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDING

Thursday, January 12, 2017

5:09 P.M.

* * *

D Street Neighborhood Center

1301 D Street

Arcata, California 95521

Jennifer L. Yang, CSR 12367

A P P E A R A N C E S

FOR THE STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD:

Parker Thaler, Environmental Scientist
1001 I Street, 14th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814
parker.thaler@waterboards.ca.gov

Erin Ragazzi, Environmental Program Manager I
1001 I Street, 14th Floor
P.O. Box 2000
Sacramento, CA 95812
erin.ragazzi@waterboards.ca.gov

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1 ARCATA, CALIFORNIA

MONDAY, JANUARY 25, 2016

2 5:09 P.M.

3 * * *

4 MS. RAGAZZI: Good evening and welcome.

5 This is the first of three scoping meetings that
6 the State Water Resources Control Board is going to be
7 having on the Lower Klamath Project. I'm Erin Ragazzi
8 with the State Water Resources Control Board and I'm here
9 today with a couple of my colleagues. Parker Thaler and
10 Christine Diego, in the back of the room, they're both
11 with the Water Quality Certification Program with the
12 State Water Board, and Marianna Aue is with our Office of
13 Chief Counsel.

14 We're also joined today by our environmental
15 consultants, Stillwater Sciences. We have Maia Singer and
16 Barbara Clark, and then they subcontracted. The tribal
17 lead for the project is William Rich.

18 So I'm going to do a little bit of logistics and
19 ground rules here today and then I'm going to turn it over
20 to Parker for a presentation.

21 First thing I want to do is just provide an
22 update. So we were scheduled originally to have a scoping
23 meeting in Yreka on June 6, but there was a lot of weather
24 recently, pretty wet, and, unfortunately, we had to cancel
25 that meeting. We were very fortunate that we could

1 reschedule that for Thursday, January 26, to the same
2 location, the Miner's Inn, and same time, 5:00 to
3 7:00 p.m., as this meeting.

4 I did want to let folks know that should you
5 leave here today and talk with other folks and they have
6 an interest in hearing about this project, hearing about
7 our process, they can either attend one of the future
8 scoping meetings in Sacramento or Yreka, or the Sacramento
9 meeting is actually being webcast, so you can always have
10 them listen in and be at that webcast.

11 So the purpose of today's meeting is really for
12 us to provide information, but, more importantly, for us
13 to hear comments from folks about the Lower Klamath
14 Project and specifically the State Water Board's process
15 related to the water quality certification application
16 that's before us.

17 So after I go through the logistics and ground
18 rules, Parker's going to provide that presentation, a very
19 brief presentation, and then we'll up open it up for
20 comments. This meeting is scheduled to go up until
21 7:00 p.m. this evening and we'll see how many commenters
22 we have.

23 The back of the room there's a sign-in sheet.
24 Please be sure to sign in. There's also a one-page
25 information sheet. Be sure to pick one of these up. It

1 provides the web page for the Lower Klamath Project. It
2 also has information on signing up for the Lower Klamath
3 Project email subscription list, so that you can receive
4 future updates about the project, and on the back there's
5 a map of the Lower Klamath Project which will help out.

6 If you want to speak tonight, please be sure to
7 fill out one of these speaker cards and then hand it off
8 to a State Water Board staffperson in the back of the
9 room.

10 If you are not sure if you want to speak or not,
11 please fill out a card and just write "if necessary," so
12 that provides with us the opportunity to know how many
13 people might want to speak so that we can figure out how
14 much time we can allocate to each speaker.

15 Please note that we have Jennifer Yang over
16 there. She's transcribing this meeting for us, and it's
17 important that you state your first and last name and you
18 spell it so that she can accurately transcribe that
19 information for us.

20 Are we good on sound and everything? Great.

21 Little bit on ground rules. Typical ground
22 rules: Please silence any electronic devices you have.
23 Take a moment to do that. Please be sure to respect all
24 speakers and all points of view this evening, and we want
25 to make sure there's only one person speaking at a time

1 and that you do use the microphone so that everybody can
2 hear the comments and, more importantly, so that we can
3 get them accurately transcribed.

4 We ask that you hold any questions or comments
5 until the end of the presentation. So we're really here
6 tonight to listen to the comments that folks have, but
7 there will be an opportunity at the end of the
8 presentation for any procedural questions that you may
9 have.

10 We do recognize there's a short time frame for
11 us to receive all comments tonight, so please respect the
12 time limits. If at the end of the oral comment period we
13 have additional time, I'm more than happy to have people
14 come up and provide additional oral comments or for other
15 folks to come forward at that time and provide additional
16 comments.

17 If you don't want to speak tonight, you can take
18 one of these speaker cards, write on it whatever comments
19 you want and put you don't want to speak tonight. We'll
20 take those written comments and consider them equally to
21 what we would consider as part of the oral comments, and
22 if you aren't able to make all of your oral comments
23 tonight, please feel free to submit written comments. The
24 comment deadline is February 1st.

25 With that, I'm going to turn it over to Parker

1 to provide a presentation on why we're here and a little
2 bit about the Lower Klamath Project.

3 MR. THALER: Hello. Thank you all for coming.

4 As Erin said, my name is Parker Thaler and I'm
5 the lead technical staff assigned to the Lower Klamath
6 Project, and as for why we are here, the Klamath River
7 Renewal Corporation, otherwise known as the KRRC,
8 submitted a water quality certification application to the
9 State Water Board to decommission sufficient portions of
10 the Lower Klamath Project for it to provide a free-flowing
11 Klamath River and for volitional fish passage.

12 The State Water Board conditions hydroelectric
13 projects via water quality certifications to ensure the
14 protection of State's waters, and the California
15 Environmental Quality Act requires an environmental impact
16 report to inform the State Water Board and the public
17 about the project's significant environmental affects and
18 ways to reduce those impacts.

19 Now today I'll be providing an overview of the
20 Lower Klamath Project dam developments; background on the
21 Lower Klamath Project Federal Energy Regulatory
22 Commission, or FERC, process, as well as the Lower Klamath
23 Project's link to the Klamath Hydroelectric Project; an
24 overview of the CEQA process, otherwise known as the
25 California Environmental Quality Act; and a discussion of

1 our notice of preparation, and in advance, I apologize for
2 all the abbreviations.

3 So shown in this slide is a map illustrating the
4 general locations of Lower Klamath Project's dam
5 developments. This is the same figure located on the
6 cover of your notice of preparation that was sent out
7 December 22, 2016, and is also located on the back page of
8 the fact sheet at the back of the room.

9 For the purposes of easy viewing on the slide on
10 the screen, I've added blue dots to generally locate the
11 Lower Klamath Project's dam developments and a red line to
12 delineate the State of California and Oregon's border.

13 The Lower Klamath Project is located along the
14 Klamath River in Siskiyou County, California and in
15 Klamath County, Oregon. The California portion includes
16 Copco No. 1, Copco No. 2, and Iron Gate Dam developments.

17 J.C. Boyle is located in Oregon, approximately
18 16 miles north of the state line, and is subject to the
19 State of Oregon's water quality certification process
20 which is a separate action than what we are discussing
21 today.

22 The Lower Klamath Project dam developments are
23 currently part of the Klamath Hydroelectric Project which
24 is owned and operated by PacifiCorp. For reference, the
25 slide lists all Klamath Hydroelectric Project facilities

1 and from upstream to downstream include East Side and West
2 Side, which are located adjacent to Link River Dam at
3 Upper Klamath Lake, Keno and J.C. Boyle, which are both
4 Oregon facilities; Copco No. 2, Copco No. 1, and Iron
5 Gate, which are all located on the main stem Klamath River
6 in California, and Fall Creek, which is located on Fall
7 Creek that is a tributary to the Klamath River.

8 You can see on the slide in bold and underlined
9 I've delineated the Lower Klamath Project dam developments
10 from the Klamath Hydroelectric Project facilities, and off
11 to the right of each name there is an abbreviation for
12 which state that facility is located at.

13 Now that I've provided information on the Lower
14 Klamath Project dam developments, I will briefly provide
15 background information on the Lower Klamath Project's
16 progress through the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
17 process. For context, FERC is the federal agency that
18 issues orders for the construction, operations, and
19 decommissioning of hydroelectric projects. FERC orders
20 are often issued with conditions or measures that project
21 operators must comply with to protect public and
22 environmental resources.

23 So beginning in 1956, FERC issued the original
24 license order for the construction and operation of the
25 Klamath Hydroelectric Project, and in February of 2000,

1 the 1956 license for the Klamath Hydroelectric Project was
2 issued on a 50-year term that expired in 2006.

3 Because the FERC license expired, the Klamath
4 Hydroelectric Project is required to obtain a new license
5 to operate from FERC, which requires a water quality
6 certification as well as other authorizations from various
7 state and federal agencies.

8 So in 2004, PacifiCorp, the owner of the Klamath
9 Hydroelectric Project, and currently associated Lower
10 Klamath Project dam developments applied to FERC to
11 relicense the Klamath Hydroelectric Project, and shortly
12 thereafter, in 2006, applied to the State Water Board for
13 water quality certification.

14 In 2007, FERC completed its National
15 Environmental Policy Act compliance by issuance of a final
16 environmental impact statement analyzing PacifiCorps
17 proposals for continued operations of the Klamath
18 Hydroelectric Project as well as various alternatives.

19 Following that, in 2008, the State Water Board
20 began CEQA process of evaluating the Klamath Hydroelectric
21 Project for release of a notice of preparation and hosting
22 of scoping meetings.

23 Following FERC's issuance of its final
24 environmental impact statement, some Klamath Hydroelectric
25 Project-affected parties began discussions for a

1 settlement agreement that resulted in the formation of the
2 Klamath Hydroelectric Settlement Agreement in
3 February 2010.

4 The Klamath Hydroelectric Settlement Agreement
5 created a pathway for dam removal of J.C. Boyle, Copco
6 No. 2, Copco No. 1, and Iron Gate Dam developments via
7 federal authorization that would have removed these
8 developments from the FERC process, and in September of
9 2012, the Klamath Hydroelectric Settlement Agreement,
10 along with its companion agreement known as the Klamath
11 Basin Restoration Agreement, resulted in the final Klamath
12 Facilities Removal environmental impact statement and
13 environmental impact report, and before I go any further,
14 I would like to note here that the State Water Board is
15 not a signatory to any of the settlement agreements and
16 that the State Water Board maintains its independent
17 authority to condition the Klamath Hydroelectric Project
18 and the Lower Klamath Project for the protection of water
19 quality standards, and in light of the substantial new
20 information developed since the 2008 notice of
21 preparation, in 2015 the State Water Board reinitiated the
22 CEQA process by release of an updated notice of
23 preparation and hosting the public scoping meetings.

24 Shortly thereafter, on April 6 of 2016, the
25 Klamath Hydroelectric Settlement Agreement was amended to

1 remove provisions requiring federal authorization to
2 proceed with dam removal and instead pursue dam removal
3 through the FERC process.

4 Following the amendment of the Klamath
5 Hydroelectric Settlement Agreement and at the request of
6 PacifiCorp, on June 16, 2016, FERC placed the Klamath
7 Hydroelectric Project relicensing process on hold for an
8 abeyance and on June 24, 2016, PacifiCorp withdrew its
9 water quality certification application from the State
10 Water Board thereby ending the water quality certification
11 and CEQA process associated with the Klamath Hydroelectric
12 Project.

13 Following PacifiCorps' withdrawal of its water
14 quality certification application, several events happened
15 on September 23, 2016. A new entity, a 501(c)(3)
16 non-profit known as the Klamath River Renewal Corporation,
17 jointly filed with PacifiCorp an application to transfer a
18 portion of the Klamath Hydroelectric Project to the
19 Klamath River Renewal Corporation thereby dividing the
20 Klamath Hydroelectric Project into two separate projects,
21 the first being East Side and West Side, Keno, and Fall
22 Creek, which would maintain the name Klamath Hydroelectric
23 Project as well as FERC project number 2082.

24 The second would go to the Klamath River Renewal
25 Corporation and would consist of J.C. Boyle, Copco No. 2,

1 Copco No. 1, and Iron Gate dam developments, otherwise
2 known as the Lower Klamath Project. FERC has designated
3 this project as project number 14803. I'd like to note
4 that this transfer application is currently pending before
5 FERC.

6 In addition to the transfer application, the
7 Klamath River Renewal Corporation also, on September 23,
8 2016, filed with FERC a license surrender application
9 seeking to decommission sufficient portions of the Lower
10 Klamath Project to provide for a free-flowing Klamath
11 River in the project-affected area as well as volitional
12 fish passage, and also on September 23, 2016, the Klamath
13 River Renewal Corporation submitted a water quality
14 certification application to the State Water Board.

15 Now that we've covered the background, the State
16 Water Board is proceeding with processing the Klamath
17 River Renewal Corporation's water quality certification
18 application, but before the State Water Board can take an
19 action on the Lower Klamath Project's water quality
20 certification application, it must first comply with CEQA
21 as CEQA is a requirement of state law. Information
22 developed in the CEQA process will be used to inform the
23 State Water Board's future actions.

24 Today's scoping meeting is part of the notice of
25 preparation public comment period that began on

1 December 22, 2016, and will end on February 1st of 2017.

2 Shown in the slide is an overview of the typical
3 CEQA process in which the State Water Board has determined
4 an environmental impact report is necessary. You can see
5 following that determination the State Water Board will
6 issue a notice of preparation and conduct public scoping
7 meetings, which is currently where we are at.

8 You can see on the slide in bold and underlined
9 I have noted this a formal public comment period under
10 CEQA, and the dates for the comment period are listed.
11 December 22 is when it began, and it will close on
12 February 1 at 5:00 p.m.

13 Following the close of the comment period, the
14 State Water Board will collect all the comments and take
15 them into consideration as well as consider the existing
16 environmental information that is available and use those
17 to develop a draft environmental impact report.

18 The draft environmental impact report will then
19 be released for a minimum 30-day public comment period,
20 and again you can see that there's a formal public comment
21 period associated with the environmental impact report.

22 The draft environmental impact report will
23 include items like a detailed description of the project
24 and project alternatives, mitigation measures to reduce
25 impacts to resource areas and a description of

1 environmental baseline conditions.

2 Now, similar to the notice of preparation
3 portion of the CEQA process, the State Water Board will
4 consider all comments received and issue a final
5 environmental impact report.

6 Following or concurrent with the issuance of the
7 final environmental impact report, the State Water Board
8 will take an action on the KRRC or Klamath River Renewal
9 Corporation's water quality certification application.

10 Now, our CEQA approach is to focus on the
11 California portion of the Lower Klamath Project because
12 that is the portion of the project subject to the State
13 Water Board's authority.

14 We plan to use FERC's environmental impact
15 statement and the Klamath facilities removal environmental
16 impact statement and environmental impact report in
17 development of our CEQA document. We also plan to use
18 information gathered by CEQA commenters, the scientific
19 community, settlement agreement, tribes and other sources.

20 Our notice of preparation identified two project
21 alternatives that we plan to include, and those were the
22 Klamath River Renewal Corporation's proposed project to
23 decommission sufficient portions of the Lower Klamath
24 Project to provide for volitional fish passage and a
25 free-flowing Klamath River and the known project

1 alternatives, and we recognize there is a range between
2 these two alternatives and part of this public scoping
3 period is to receive input on additional alternatives or
4 specific alternatives that the public feels should be
5 considered.

6 So to jump back to today's meeting, all public
7 comments submitted by February 1st of 2017 will be
8 considered. I consider all comments to be helpful, but
9 there are a few key pieces of information that would be
10 most helpful to us in development of our CEQA document,
11 and those are the adequacy of FERC's environmental impact
12 statement and the planned facilities removal joint
13 CEQA-NEPA document.

14 In other words, do these documents address your
15 concerns or is additional time needed; the range of
16 alternatives or specific alternatives that should be
17 considered, as well as potential impacts or mitigation
18 measures, and, of course, any other items.

19 Now, there has been previous analysis done on
20 alternatives, impacts, and mitigation measures, and those
21 have been described today such as FERC's environmental
22 impact statement and the Klamath Facilities Removal
23 CEQA-NEPA document. To the extent that those documents
24 address your concerns or comments, it would be beneficial
25 for us to know of them, and we do understand there are

1 environmental impacts associated with the Klamath River
2 Renewal Corporation's proposed project and potential other
3 alternatives, including the release of large sediments
4 from behind Copco and Iron Gate reservoirs, changes in
5 ground water table and potential impacts to tribal
6 cultural resources.

7 If you're planning on commenting on potential
8 impacts, I encourage everyone to refer to attachment one
9 in the notice of preparation for a list of impacts that
10 we've identified which was developed using previous
11 environmental information that we cited.

12 So with that, again, please submit your comments
13 by 5:00 p.m. on February 1st of 2017. You can send them
14 to the physical or email address shown up here, and
15 there's a link also on the slide to our Lower Klamath
16 Project web page where we post updated water quality
17 certification information, and another slide here is how
18 to stay informed, and on the front of our NLP there's
19 instructions on how to subscribe to our Lower Klamath
20 Project License Surrender email subscription system, and
21 when we have updates such as release of a notice of
22 preparation or draft CEQA document, we will be sending
23 them out via that system, and if you're signed in, you'll
24 automatically receive those updates, and we've also posted
25 those instructions on the slide.

1 With that, I will turn it over to Erin to take
2 over the questions relating to processes described today
3 and then public comments. Thank you.

4 MS. RAGAZZI: So there's a bunch of folks
5 standing over here. There are plenty of seats out here.
6 Anyone with a seat next to them that's open, raise your
7 hand and let folks know where they might want to come in
8 and sit down, so if you'd like to, there's plenty of seats
9 up front, and we are here until 7:00, potentially.

10 So second of all I want to find out does anybody
11 have any comment cards out there. Anybody else that wants
12 to comment today? If so, you can hand your comments to
13 Christian. That would be great.

14 And then, are there any procedural questions?
15 So not a comment, just where you have a question about how
16 to submit a comment or something like that.

17 Okay, so we're going to dive right in to hear
18 what you guys came here to tell us tonight, so first
19 speaker -- I'm going to call out a couple names so folks
20 know -- John Driscoll with representative Jared Huffman
21 followed by Paul Kinsey and Javier Kinney.

22 And just so folks know, I'm going to give folks
23 three minutes, so plan accordingly. If we have extra time
24 at the end, I'm happy to give people an opportunity to
25 come back and provide additional comments.

1 If you could state your name, first and last
2 name, and spell it, that would be great.

3 JOHN DRISCOLL: My name is John Driscoll,
4 J-o-h-n D-r-i-s-c-o-l-l. I'm the district representative
5 for Congressman Jared Huffman. Do I need to spell that as
6 well?

7 Thank you for coming to Arcata tonight and being
8 here to listen to what all these folks have to say, and I
9 think it's pretty clear that most people feel the same way
10 about these dams.

11 The part that you're considering is of great
12 interest to the Congressman and to tribes, fishermen,
13 communities up and down the West Coast. It's a key piece
14 in the effort to remove the four dams on the Klamath, to
15 rebuild salmon runs and make the river healthy.

16 We've known for a long time that the reservoirs
17 behind the four dams severely compromise water quality by
18 heating up water and causing algae blooms. This has had
19 disastrous effects on the Klamath River's important
20 fisheries, recreational uses of the river, and the
21 ceremony uses by the tribes that hold the river sacred.

22 As you know, the 2012 state and federal
23 environmental study on this issue detailed those impacts,
24 and the studies that have come since then have added
25 more scientific weight to joint EIR/EIS conclusions.

1 Congressman Huffman asks that the findings of that joint
2 study be rolled into the new state environmental study for
3 consideration.

4 I also ask that the expected long-term benefits
5 of removing the Klamath's four dams be weighed carefully
6 and thoroughly along with any possibility of short-term
7 impacts. It's especially important to take that long view
8 in which a restored river can rebuild itself.

9 Congressman Huffman asks that your board issue a
10 water quality certification for dam removal as so many,
11 including many of the people in this room, have worked to
12 achieve for so long. The timely issuance of the
13 certificate is imperative to allow the Federal Energy
14 Regulatory Commission to authorize dam removal this year.

15 Please give the water quality certification your
16 full and fair consideration. Congress Huffman thanks you
17 for your long participation in the Klamath River issues
18 and Congressman Huffman also asks you take one more step
19 to help tear down these dams.

20 MS. RAGAZZI: Thank you.

21 If you feel comfortable with leaving your
22 written comments with Jenni, she'd probably really
23 appreciate it.

24 So next speaker, Paul Kinsey.

25 If I mispronounce anyone's name, please don't

1 take offense and please correct me when you come up, so
2 first name, last name, and please spell it.

3 PAUL KINSEY: You did a very good job.

4 My name is Paul Kinsey, P-a-u-l K-i-n-s-e-y, and
5 I am in fact a water license holder in the State of
6 California, one of the very few less than 7,000 license
7 holders in California and I am one of those license
8 holders, and I am here today to say that I support the
9 unlicensing of the Klamath dams and encourage the State
10 Water Resources Board to revoke the license and
11 discontinue it. Thank you.

12 MS. RAGAZZI: Javier Kinney followed by Amy
13 Cordalis followed by Larry Glass.

14 JAVIER KINNEY: Good evening. Javier Kinney,
15 J-a-v-i-e-r K-i-n-n-e-y, and Yurok tribal member, director
16 of the Office of Self Governance, Yurok Tribe.

17 So the Yurok Tribe formally and strongly
18 supports the issuance of the 401 certification for the
19 removal of all four dams for three reasons. The first,
20 restoration, respect and recognition.

21 First, the removal of all four dams will assist
22 not only the Yurok Tribe, indigenous people of the Klamath
23 River, to restore and balance our ecosystem and our
24 traditional ways of life, not only our economic,
25 political, social, legal, and cultural ways of being.

1 Secondly, the removal of all four dams will
2 respect the balance, the indigenous knowledge, as well as
3 the contemporary way of life. The Yurok Tribe not only
4 manages, but implements direct action to protect the
5 waterways, the water quality, and the scientific
6 foundation in order to continue the positive, as well as
7 economic, foundation for generations to come.

8 Lastly, the removal of all four dams will
9 rightly recognize the way of life of the Yurok Tribe, and
10 its communities, the cultural ceremonies, the prayers, as
11 well as traditional food types and sources, will continue
12 to provide both sustenance for our communities, our
13 children, our elders, as well as the rest of the region
14 and the peoples along the Klamath River.

15 So in recap, the restoration, respect, and
16 recognition of Yurok Tribe's tribal comments -- more will
17 be coming this evening as well -- to remove all four dams
18 and the approval, as well as strong support for the
19 issuance of the 401 certification. Thank you.

20 MS. RAGAZZI: Thank you.

21 So Amy followed by Larry Glass followed by
22 Nathaniel Pennington.

23 AMY CORDALIS: Aiy yu kwee. Nek now Amy
24 Cordalis. My name is Amy Cordalis. I'm general counsel
25 for the Yurok tribe. My family is from Requa. We've been

1 in Requa since the beginning of time, which for folks that
2 don't know, that's right at the mouth of the Klamath River
3 on the north side.

4 The Yurok Tribe has always resided on the
5 Klamath River. Our current reservation straddles the
6 lower 44 miles of the Klamath River a mile on either side
7 of the river.

8 The river is the core of who we are as a people.
9 Everything we do, from our economic livelihood to our
10 culture, to our religion, to recreation depends on a
11 clean, healthy river.

12 Ever since the dams have been in place since the
13 1950s, we have seen the gradual destruction of our fishery
14 and our river. We have spent a considerable amount of our
15 time and resources building a fisheries department that
16 has studied the poor -- well, the effects of dams on our
17 fisheries, and all of our reports, all of our work which
18 has informed the 2012 EIS indicates that the dams have
19 incredibly negative water quality impacts -- there's just
20 no other way around it -- and so we strongly support
21 removal of the dams.

22 We strongly support that this board move forward
23 with the certification process. We hope that you can do
24 that by at least 2019 so that we can stay on track for dam
25 removal by 2020. We encourage you to inform your

1 environmental impact report with the 2012 EIS update, that
2 by taking out the components that were related to the
3 KBRA, because that's no longer valid; account for the last
4 five years of drought; and then also consider the new
5 fisheries or fisheries disease issues that we've had on
6 the Klamath River. Those are in 2014 and 2015 the
7 Endangered Species Act was violated because the incidental
8 take permit was exceeded.

9 We had a disease, C. shasta, that killed what I
10 call our baby fish. Eighty to 90 percent of our baby fish
11 in 2014 and 2015 were killed as a result of the C. shasta
12 disease, and so since then, our fisheries team has looked
13 at the cause of that, those mortalities, and again it goes
14 back to the poor water quality conditions caused by the
15 dams, so I encourage you to incorporate the reports that
16 we will submit later outlining those disease into your
17 EIR. Thank you.

18 MS. RAGAZZI: Thank you.

19 Next speaker, Larry Glass followed by Nathaniel
20 Pennington followed by Medilia Corden.

21 LARRY GLASS: Hi. Larry Glass, L-a-r-r-y
22 G-l-a-s-s, representing the North Coast Environmental
23 Center. The Environmental Center would like to restate
24 its long-held position of all dams being removed from the
25 Klamath River.

1 For our input for the Water Board, we'd like you
2 to be sure to move expeditiously so that the permit
3 certificate can be granted in a timely enough fashion so
4 that the FERC can do their job in 2020. Those of us that
5 deal with government all the time know how critical that
6 timing issue can be. We may have missed our window of
7 opportunity.

8 I want to encourage you to encompass the 2012
9 EIR/EIS, the State and the Fed's, in your document, and
10 oh, yes, do not forget to thoroughly analyze the long-term
11 benefits that will be accorded to the fish and the people
12 who live along the Klamath River system by these dam
13 removals.

14 NATHANIEL PENNINGTON: Hello. My name is
15 Nathaniel Pennington, N-a-t-h-a-n-i-e-l
16 P-e-n-n-i-n-g-t-o-n. I'm here representing the Salmon
17 River Restoration Council. I'm also on the board of
18 directors of Klamath Riverkeeper, Nature Rights Council.
19 I've worked for the Department of Fish & Wildlife.

20 I'd like to encourage you guys -- I echo some of
21 the earlier speakers -- to act with expedience and also,
22 please, in development of the document, as you've heard,
23 take into account the long-term benefits of dams out in
24 the river and, of course, you know, also take into account
25 the fact that there is absolutely no way to have a healthy

1 Klamath River with these four lower-most large dams in
2 place, and so eventually they will be removed.

3 At the Salmon River Restoration Council, we have
4 an imperilled run of salmon that once was predominant in
5 the Klamath Basin and provided economy and traditional
6 food sources for tribes, that is the Klamath River spring
7 Chinook run, and with the dams in place, there is really
8 no way that these fish are going to continue to exist in
9 the Klamath.

10 As of now, there's, you know, anywhere between
11 90 and 1,600 wild fish that return on the Klamath side,
12 and once numbering in the hundreds of thousands before the
13 dams were put in place, so to wrap it up, just there's
14 absolutely no way that the river will survive or the
15 salmon will survive with the dams.

16 So please take into account the overall benefit
17 and try to buffer your document against people that, for
18 whatever reason, may be trying to doom it all, the good
19 work that has happened. Thank you.

20 MS. RAGAZZI: So I'm going to -- I know I'm not
21 getting this name right, so I can't -- Medilia. Sorry.
22 I'll let you say it properly -- followed by Annelia
23 Hillman followed by David Bitts.

24 MAHLIJA FLORENDO: Hello. My name is Mahlija
25 Florendo, M-a-h-l-i-j-a F-l-o-r-e-n-d-o. I am part of the

1 Yurok, Selek, Hoopa, and Wasco tribes. I live in Orleans,
2 California and my people are from the Rek-woy and the
3 Hop-ew villages on the Klamath River and we have always
4 depended on this river for years, for thousands and
5 thousands of years of what we know.

6 This river is our food source, you know, it is
7 our water source. It is everything to us. It's our
8 lifeline, and the dams have a great affect on how we live
9 and how we depend on this river. We have never been able
10 to use it the way that our ancestors did before this dam
11 was here, and I want in my future, I want my kids to be
12 able to see what this river is like when it's natural and
13 beautiful because it's -- it's our lifeline and it is
14 everything, and I just want to say, regarding my future as
15 well as everyone around it and who depends on it, undam
16 the Klamath.

17 MS. RAGAZZI: Thank you.

18 ANNELIA HILLMAN: Aiy yu kwee. Nek now Annelia
19 Hillman, A-n-n-e-l-i-a H-i-l-l-m-a-n. Here we are again.
20 Hopefully, we won't have to do this too many more times,
21 but I'm here, of course, today to support the
22 certification to remove the four dams on the Klamath
23 River. Again, dam removal is the most necessary and first
24 step to restoration for our river that we, the Yurok
25 people and the Karuk people, depend on so deeply for our

1 lifeways and our future.

2 I'd like you to consider, you know, we talk a
3 lot about the environmental impacts. Well, our people are
4 part of that environment. We are a species that depends
5 on this river, and so I'd like you to consider our mental
6 health and well-being that will be affected and renewed.
7 Once our river is renewed and restored, our mental health
8 and the well-being of our people will also be restored, so
9 please consider that, and I thank you for coming and
10 listening to us today.

11 MS. RAGAZZI: Thank you.

12 So David, I believe it's Fitts, followed by
13 Christian Richard, Mark Lovelace.

14 DAVID BITTS: Thank you. My name is Dave Bitts,
15 that's bravo, india, tango, tango, sierra, and I'm a ocean
16 salmon fisherman and crab fisherman based in Eureka for
17 the last 40 years. I'm also president of the Pacific
18 Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations, which we
19 have been involved in the settlement talks that led to the
20 agreement in 2010 since before those talks began, and I
21 want to speak briefly on behalf of ocean salmon trollers
22 because we are constrained by the abundance of Klamath
23 fall Chinook from Point Sur, California to Cape Falcon in
24 Oregon.

25 In good years we have not really a wonderful

1 opportunity, but many years of adequate opportunity to
2 fish and do okay at that, but years like last year and
3 this year, we don't. We were lucky to get a few days on
4 the water and lucky to have a few fish to catch.

5 The parasite *C. shasta* has been mentioned. I
6 believe that parasite is the primary cause of the
7 situation we have on the Klamath River in years like last
8 year and this year. As far as I can tell, some very smart
9 people have been studying that parasite for at least 15
10 years, and as far as I know, the solution seems to be
11 scouring the bottom of the river by high flows with lots
12 of gravel, and one of the things the dams do is trap all
13 that gravel so it can't scour the bottom of the river, and
14 that allows the algae to flourish.

15 There's a worm that lives in the algae. The
16 parasite lives in the worm when it's not out looking for
17 salmon to kill. If the algae can be scoured by a
18 free-flowing river, gravel rolling down in the wintertime
19 flows, we should have better fishing in many more years
20 than we currently do, so we would like to see these dams
21 removed.

22 It's kind of funny that a project that, by every
23 measure I know of, should vastly increase water quality
24 has to get certified based on water quality standards
25 compared to what it is now, but that's the way it is, so

1 thank you.

2 MS. RAGAZZI: Thank you.

3 Christian Richter, Mark Lovelace and Raymond
4 Matz. Christian?

5 I'll move it to the back and we'll go with Mark.

6 MARK LOVELACE: Thank you. I'm Mark Lovelace.
7 Until very recently, I was the Third District Supervisor
8 for Humboldt County. I've worked on the Klamath River
9 issue since 2006. Oh. L-o-v-e-l-a-c-e.

10 I've worked on the Klamath River issue since
11 2006, including eight years on behalf of County of
12 Humboldt. While I no longer speak on behalf of the
13 County, Humboldt is the signatory to the revised KHSAs and
14 to the regional KHSAs and KVRA.

15 I urge you to approve the 401 permit and move
16 forward with decommissioning in 2020 as proposed. The
17 existing EIR/EIS addresses the full range of the issues,
18 alternatives, and mitigations for this project and forms a
19 sound basis for your own analysis. I wish I had
20 forethought to bring the administrative record for that
21 document here. It would stand about this tall, and that
22 found conclusively that dam decommission and removal is by
23 far the best path forward with the health of the river.

24 As with the previous speaker, David Bitts, I
25 have to comment on the irony of having to do EIR,

1 environmental study, for removal of the dams when none was
2 done for construction of the these dams over the 60-year
3 period of their development. Had there been any kind of
4 analysis of constructing these dams prior to that, I don't
5 think there's any doubt these dams never would have been
6 built in the first place.

7 We've seen over the 100 years that some of these
8 dams have stood the impacts that they've created to water
9 quality, to fish, to the river itself, to the fisherman,
10 the tribes, downstream communities, the industries that
11 depend upon this river. Clearly, that impact is very
12 present. You've heard that and you will hear that for the
13 rest of this evening from so many people.

14 I urge you to move forward on 401 certification
15 to allow these dams to come down by 2020. Thank you.

16 MS. RAGAZZI: Thank you.

17 Raymond followed by Craig Tucker followed by
18 James Dunlap. Raymond, you're next. You're up right now.

19 RAYMOND MATZ: Hello. Raymond Matz. I'm a
20 Yurok Indian and I live down at the mouth of the river
21 and, you know, I just heard the commercial fisherman get
22 up here say about the algae. How about taking those four
23 dams out and you won't have to scrub the bottom. They'd
24 be clean in a year. It's the craziest thing I've heard in
25 a long time, but that's important. You know, I'm a

1 commercial fisherman, so I know how they act.

2 Years ago I was fishing, swimming on the Klamath
3 River -- folks had a place up the river -- and some boat
4 pulled up and a bunch of guys got out and they had cameras
5 in the boat and they asked us, "What you think of all of
6 the bark coming down the river? Is it killing salmon?"
7 And I spoke up, "Yeah, you see dead salmon, but you always
8 see them in the summertime," and the friend where I was
9 swimming, there was a plumb full of water and they say,
10 "Where is that coming from," and I said, "The rafts coming
11 down the river hit the bottom and knocking the bark off."
12 No. She didn't know why she was even there. Just some
13 people talking, you know?

14 The biggest thing I seen with hurt the Klamath
15 River is the salmon kill. I cried on that. I went up
16 four times with fishing people, showing up, and I said,
17 "I can't go back." It's just a killing zone the way I
18 felt about it, and I knew it was happening. I knew as
19 soon as I heard they were dying up there what was
20 happening.

21 I said, when they took the Trinity and put a dam
22 on it, something's going to happen. The water, so much of
23 it came out of the Klamath, out of the Trinity and just
24 started -- the whole river started falling apart, and you
25 know we don't get them dams out, the Klamath River's going

1 to die. You can see it. It's happening right now. It's
2 happening. Okay. Thank you.

3 MS. RAGAZZI: Thank you.

4 CRAIG TUCKER: My name is Craig Tucker. I'm the
5 net resources policy advocate for the Karuk Tribe. I've
6 been working on this professionally for over 12 years, and
7 there's a lot of people in this room that have spent a lot
8 more years than that, they're whole lives, working on this
9 issue.

10 I want to let you know the Karuk Tribe supports
11 the issuance of the 401 water quality permit for the
12 decommission of the lower four dams unequivocally. We
13 think that you need to incorporate the bulk of the
14 scientific analysis that went into the 2012 EIR/EIS.
15 This is what's already been done. There's 3,000 pages of
16 peer-reviewed, technical analysis that can be drawn on.
17 The result of that analysis was a recommendation to remove
18 these dam. We want you to do this in a timely manner. We
19 want to remove these dams by 2020, so we hope your
20 permitting process will be consistent with that time line.

21 We think that new information that should be
22 included has to do with what we have learned in recent
23 years about the fish diseases you've been hearing about,
24 and the Karuk Tribe will be providing you guys, in
25 coordination with Karuk, Yurok, and Hoopa tribes, a

1 technical report on these fish diseases.

2 I just want to say I appreciate you guys making
3 the drive out here. I really appreciate -- seems like a
4 little bit of a family reunion when we have these meetings
5 now, and I really appreciate the people in this community.
6 It makes me proud to live here where we can have these
7 very similar meetings where we come out time and time
8 again to make the exact same points about restoring our
9 river.

10 We have kids out playing basketball right now,
11 we have things going on at home, but people are in here.
12 It makes really proud to live this in area and see all
13 these familiar faces keep coming out and committed to this
14 river. I really appreciate it. Thank you very much.

15 MS. RAGAZZI: Thank you.

16 James Dunlap followed by Dave Hilleman followed
17 by Ian Ospowochi. Start with James.

18 JAMES DUNLAP: James Dunlap, D-u-n-l-a-p.
19 I'd like to say I'm a Yurok tribal member, a father,
20 grandfather and fisherman, and I would implore you to
21 expediate the process.

22 I was sitting back there going over the mission
23 statement of water quality of the resource board, and just
24 follow through with the mission statement, that's to
25 preserve and restore California water.

1 When kids and grandkids can't swim in the river
2 because of the toxic green algae, because the quality of
3 water that's coming out from behind those dams, it's a
4 very deep and saddening affect on everyone, and, you know,
5 I want to tell you to do your job, you know, and of course
6 one of the things I'd like to see is that the newest
7 dam -- I'd like to thank you for giving us this
8 opportunity to give you the impact it's going to have on
9 us, and it's about the quality of water that -- you guys
10 are the water quality people.

11 How it's gotten to this point, how it's
12 progressed to where we are today is a tragedy within
13 itself, and I would hope that you take all the necessary
14 steps to rectify this problem. Thank you.

15 MS. RAGAZZI: Thank you.

16 David, it could be Hillman. Hillemeier. Thank
17 you. I apologize.

18 DAVID HILLEMEIER: Good evening. My name is
19 David Hillemeier and I'm the fisheries director for the
20 Yurok Tribe.

21 MS. RAGAZZI: Can you spell it for Jenni,
22 please.

23 DAVID HILLEMEIER: H-i-l-l-e-m-e-i-e-r. It's
24 hard to pronounce.

25 Yeah, so I'm the fisheries director for the

1 Yurok Tribe, and I want to reiterate what some of the
2 Yurok residents have said previously, that we fully
3 support the certification of the removal of the four
4 Klamath dams.

5 It's a pretty exciting time for me. I've been
6 working for the tribe for over 20 years, and we do a lot
7 of stuff to try to improve fisheries habitat in the
8 Klamath and Trinity Basins, and I think it's all really
9 good stuff, but it's all pretty much work, from my
10 perspective, relative to the prospect of getting the four
11 dams out of the Klamath River. That's the one that would
12 make a major difference in regards to restoring the
13 fishery.

14 I encourage you to work as expeditiously as
15 possible, try to rely upon some of the record that exists
16 from previous EIS efforts because there's a lot of good
17 information that was gathered at that time.

18 In regards to the timing of it, just this past
19 year, Yurok Tribe received the lowest fall Chinook
20 allocation that they've received since the early 1990s.

21 The river needs help. The river is very sick,
22 and there are several reasons for that. One of the
23 primary reasons is the dams.

24 In 2014 and 2015, we had over 80-90 percent of
25 the juvenile fish that were sampled for disease were

1 infected with a parasite known as Ceratonova shasta, and
2 high or low flows are a large component of that, but also
3 the dams, they make it a very good polychaete habitat,
4 which is a worm that is part of the life cycle of this of
5 disease, and because the dams have interrupted the
6 sediment budget in the Klamath River, the river has become
7 very armored and stable, so these polychaetes stay in
8 place rather than having sediments move them around, which
9 is how the natural river would function each year, and
10 also the algae in the reservoirs, every year they deposit
11 that algae downstream. It's prime food for these
12 polychaetes and it's really disrupted the balances of the
13 Klamath Basin and it was a major contributor to the fact
14 that there was almost no fish for the Yurok Tribe to
15 harvest this past year.

16 MS. RAGAZZI: Ian.

17 IAN OSIPOWITSCH: My name is I-a-n
18 O-s-i-p-o-w-i-t-s-c-h. Thank you.

19 I just want to say that I support the dam
20 removal. I think it would behoove the local people and
21 the ecology a lot and hopefully lead the way for more
22 river restoration throughout the state and the country
23 because it's a very large river. You can tell by the size
24 of the watershed. And thank you.

25 MS. RAGAZZI: Thank you.

1 Dr. Joshua Strange followed by Clayton Creger
2 followed by Regina Chichizola followed by Scott Greacen.

3 DR. JOSHUA STRANGE: Hello. Good evening.
4 Appreciate the opportunity to speak here, yeah. So I also
5 appreciate the Water Board's efforts here and the team
6 that's invoked to help keep this on pace for 2020.

7 I do want to speak just a few brief comments
8 about the effects analysis. As many speakers have already
9 alluded to, it's going to be really important to add that
10 we discussed the disease impacts, and that is relating --

11 MS. RAGAZZI: I think there's some reverb.

12 DR. JOSHUA STRANGE: Yeah, so many people have
13 already spoken to the Myxosporidium disease and it's
14 important to include the Parvicapsulum minibicornis, as
15 well as the C. shasta, and there are some recent
16 documents, as you know, that will be helpful on all that
17 as well.

18 Also, I conducted research for the Yurok Tribe
19 on the rivers of Washington related to the adult salmon
20 migration in the lower Klamath River, and one of the
21 conclusions of that research is that the dams are likely
22 contributing to the disease risk to the adults as well
23 through the Ick, and that's related to how it impacts
24 their migration behavior, so I'd be happy to provide that
25 publication reference. That is an important part.

1 In terms of mitigation, I would suggest that
2 there are some additional mitigations that could work for
3 the dam, in particular for allowing continuation of the
4 East Side and West Side project on the Fall side, and I
5 would suggest looking at the possibility of fish passage
6 at Jenny Creek Falls and also opportunities to improve
7 water quality in the Klamath River and the Link River
8 through the East Side and West Side in filtration
9 galleries, other approaches that could be tested and then
10 scaled up if they showed promise as part of the mitigation
11 for water quality.

12 In particular, as many of you are aware, Keno
13 Reservoir is going to be a key water quality issue moving
14 forward, and so as part of this process, whatever
15 additional mitigation that could be done related to East
16 Side and West Side as part of this transfer of those
17 projects would be helpful, and that can include
18 potentially transferring or ejecting clean water into the
19 river or thereabouts. Thank you.

20 MS. RAGAZZI: Thank you.

21 Clayton, Regina, Scott.

22 CLAYTON CREAGER: Good evening. My name is
23 Clayton Creager, C-r-e-a-g-e-r, and I'm an environmental
24 program manager for the North Coast Regional Water Quality
25 Control Board. I'm here tonight to speak on behalf of our

1 agency relative to this Lower Klamath Project and express
2 our full support for the alternative of the four Lower
3 Klamath Dams.

4 The North Coast Regional Water Board has been
5 working on a comprehensive step throughout the basin, both
6 above and below the dams to improve and restore water
7 quality throughout the basin.

8 MS. RAGAZZI: We turned it up.

9 CLAYTON CREAGER: Through that strategy, we've
10 been working with many organizations, many of the people
11 in the room, the tribes, private landowners, environmental
12 groups, and we consider the Klamath Basin in its entirety
13 a single ecosystem, and towards that end, to support that
14 adaptive management approach, we've developed the Klamath
15 Basin Long-term Program, which could provide essential
16 information on both current status and trends and future
17 effects of dam removal, and the Klamath Tracking and
18 Hunting Program, which provides information on restoration
19 actions throughout the basin.

20 So the ongoing restoration action of -- the
21 ongoing restoration actions of the TMVL implementation is
22 not adequate to restore water quality to the Klamath
23 River. It cannot restore the Klamath to its full
24 potential without also addressing the water quality
25 factors created by the four dams identified in the Lower

1 Klamath Project. This understanding is widely accepted in
2 the scientific community as noted in Interior Secretary
3 Jewell's summary of the Klamath Secondary Determination
4 Findings which makes the selection of the facility removal
5 alternative a clear choice.

6 The North Coast Board accepts that this facility
7 removal scenario is undoubtedly going to result in
8 temporary downstream impacts that may be unavoidable. The
9 procedures for evaluating and authorizing these temporary
10 impacts from restoration projects, which at times can
11 degrade water quality and cause temporary exceeding of
12 water quality objectives, are detailed in the Regional
13 Board's policy in support of restoration in the North
14 Coast Region Restoration Policy which when it's approved
15 by the State Board and the Office of Administrative Law.

16 In short, we just want to express again our full
17 support for the alternatives to decommission the dams.
18 Thank you.

19 MS. RAGAZZI: Thank you.

20 REGINA CHICHIZOLA: Hello. My name is Regina
21 Chichizola. This is my son, Malcom Fisher Chichizola.
22 C-h-i, c-h-i again, z-o-l-a.

23 I have been working on this process, the 401
24 certification process, for 12 years and have been kind of
25 a pain in the butt sometimes, so sorry for that, but it's

1 really nice to see you moving forward with the 401
2 certification to remove these dams.

3 I know that removing the dams are going to have
4 this great impact. I have studied dam removal as to how
5 it relates to water quality in other watersheds, and what
6 we've seen is even in cases where there are major
7 pollutants such as PCBs and lead and things like that,
8 actually, dam removal has been beneficial and it has not
9 released, in areas where there's been so many sediments
10 way beyond the Klamath, those sediments have flushed out
11 fast and they've actually created new beaches, new
12 opportunities for fishermen, and so I think you should
13 look at some of those dam removals in this process because
14 they will show that the benefits far outweigh anything
15 else that is possible.

16 That said, I'd also like to say that the Klamath
17 River right now is so extremely important and the
18 restoration is so extremely important because most of the
19 other rivers on the West Coast have declining fish
20 populations. A lot of the species are at risk of
21 immediate extinction in the Sacramento and Columbia River,
22 and this is the best chance we have to bring back a
23 fishery in the West Coast, so I fully support this plan.

24 I'd like to bring up I hope that California
25 engages in the Oregon process and makes sure that Keno

1 Reservoir is not a problem for fisheries and that water
2 quality issues there are dealt with, and also, I would
3 like to support what Josh said about the East Side and
4 West Side power houses.

5 Other than that, I would also like to say that
6 any of the claims that these dams help nutrient dynamics
7 or temperatures are false. All they do is change nutrient
8 dynamics and they greatly increase temperatures, and all
9 of that is negative for salmon, on and on.

10 Just so you know who I represent, I work the
11 Pacific Coast Federation Fishermen's Association and also
12 work with a group called Save the Klamath Trinity Salmon,
13 and I have been doing comments, also, for the California
14 Sportfishing Protection Association. Thank you very much,
15 and I'm going to see if Malcom wants to say anything.

16 Oh, yeah. The last thing is please have this
17 process move as quickly as possible because everyone who
18 depend on these fisheries need the dam removal to occur
19 fairly soon so that everyone can be eating and communities
20 can be restored upon the river.

21 And Malcom, do you want to say anything?

22 MALCOM CHICHIZOLA: I don't know.

23 REGINA CHICHIZOLA: You don't?

24 Well, he usually likes to say that he really
25 likes orca whales and sharks and he thinks you should save

1 the salmon for the orca whales and the sharks.

2 This meeting's a little bigger than the one
3 before, but thank you again so much and please move this
4 process along quickly and take down these dams. Thank
5 you.

6 MS. RAGAZZI: Scott Greacen, Friends of the Eel,
7 Aaron David and Zane Schoettgen.

8 SCOTT GREACEN: Scott Greacen, Friends of the
9 Eel River. G-r-e-a-c-e-n.

10 The Eel River has two dams on its outer main
11 stem which should also be decommissioned and removed,
12 which is part of the reason I'm here tonight.

13 We got a little too comfortable rebuilding the
14 plumbing of a lot of westerns watersheds, and I see this
15 process as a important step in getting more comfortable
16 with the idea that many of these dams are going to need to
17 come out during the lifetimes of people in this room. We
18 do need to get started with these four Klamath dams, the
19 removal of which, as you heard, is necessary to secure the
20 restoration and protection of clean water and functioning
21 ecosystem.

22 As others have said, I would encourage you to
23 move as expeditiously as possible to issue this clean
24 water permit, because this is going to help protect clean
25 water; to use the analysis in the 2012 EIR/EIS because,

1 hey, it would be foolish not to use it, we paid for it;
2 and to look again at the long-term benefits of dam
3 removal, because they are very substantial and we really
4 need to think about that stuff as we make these important
5 decisions. Thank you very much.

6 MS. RAGAZZI: Thank you. Aaron David.

7 AARON DAVID: Aaron David. A-a-r-o-n D-a-v-i-d.

8 Thank you for the opportunity to speak,
9 primarily an echo what other folks have already said
10 tonight, that in regards to this process, please, I urge
11 you to certify the water quality certification for removal
12 of the dams, and as other folks have said, there's this
13 tremendous scientific and regulatory literature, and all
14 these reports have been published and I'm sure you don't
15 want to start from scratch with this process and write a
16 phone book-sized report, so use that literature out there,
17 use the scientific and regulatory literatures as others
18 have said.

19 The Department of Interior report, 2012 EIS/EIR
20 said taking down the dams is the best thing we can
21 possibly do for restoring the fisheries along the Klamath
22 River also water quality and the communities along the
23 Klamath River, so take that information into account. It
24 is solid science.

25 Also echo what Regina had to say. Take a look

1 at the dam removals that have occurred in other places,
2 the Elwha in particular and some other dam removals, where
3 they have seen some short-term water quality impacts it's
4 true, but they abate pretty quickly and that we have seen
5 very rapidly a huge number of benefits from the removal of
6 the dam. I encourage you, as you go through this process,
7 to take a look at some of those results. Thank you.

8 MS. RAGAZZI: Thank you.

9 Zane followed by Tracy Katelman.

10 ZANE SCHOETTGEN: Zane Schoettgen,
11 S-c-h-o-e-t-t-g-e-n. Most of what I had to say has been
12 said tonight and in far better terms than I could have and
13 far more versed in literature and scientific findings than
14 I could have said; however, what I want to say is I want
15 to see this dam removal happen as quickly as it can. Use
16 the scientific findings and bureaucratic standards, but as
17 expeditiously as possible I think would be best and make
18 an impact. In an area where dam removal will get you a
19 dirty look at the very least, it's refreshing to see this.

20 Thank you for your time.

21 MS. RAGAZZI: Thank you. Tracy Katelman.

22 TRACY KATELMAN: My name is Tracy Katelman,
23 T-r-a-c-y K-a-t-e-l-m-a-n. I know a little about the
24 impact. I've been gone for ten years out of the country.
25 I'm back to Humboldt, glad to be back, and really

1 heartened that an idea that we talked about back then as a
2 dream really is happening, so that's so exciting for me to
3 see that.

4 In perspective, I want to share a couple of
5 things with you. One is that the world is watching this
6 process. I've been living in Southern Chile and we've
7 been looking there at how to stop dams coming in, and it's
8 been interesting to see the news about what's happening up
9 here and the dam removal process down there and people
10 looking at the environment to stop more dams coming in, so
11 I wanted you to understand that international perspective
12 happening.

13 And I'm looking down what the mission is the of
14 the Water Board, which is to ensure the highest reasonable
15 quality for waters of the State while allocating these
16 waters to achieve the optimal balance of beneficial uses,
17 and I think, from what I've heard today, people who have
18 been working on this issue for the last ten or twenty
19 years, there's a lot of really good science that's already
20 happened that's clearly demonstrating that this is,
21 without a doubt, the best thing for water quality.

22 Certainly we're going to see short-term impacts
23 with the flushing of the dams, but the long-term impact,
24 which is what I think this issue says, is that we're going
25 to see an absolute increase in water quality, so I

1 encourage you to approve the permit as expeditiously as
2 possible and thanks for providing this.

3 MS. RAGAZZI: Thank you.

4 LANA MCCOVEY: Hi. My name is Lana McCovey,
5 L-a-n-a M-c-C-o-v, as in Victor, e-y. I'm a Yurok tribal
6 member. I'm also a council member for the Yurok Tribe,
7 and a lot has been said already about the science and you
8 have received documentation on that, and I just want to
9 reiterate that the Yurok Tribe supports the full removal
10 of the four Upper Klamath River dams, but I did want to
11 reflect, on a personal note, some of the things regarding
12 the water quality of the Klamath.

13 I remember the first time that I was told, as a
14 teenager, that I shouldn't swim in the river because it
15 wasn't healthy, and I couldn't understand then, and being
16 a council member, I'm slowly learning everything that has
17 contributed to this, and the one thing I have learned is
18 that the dams are in fact the contributing factor to the
19 poor health of the river, and so that's sad to me that I
20 have to put out notices -- and I put out several
21 throughout this last year -- to the tribal membership that
22 the river wasn't healthy to touch, you know, that elders
23 and children and animals should not go into the water, and
24 with the Yurok Tribe, that reservation is on both sides of
25 the river going for 35 miles, you know, up from the mouth,

1 that that is a really sad thing to have happen, that you
2 can't even touch the water that's in your backyard because
3 you can get sick from it, and so it's just that, you know,
4 if we're going to be -- if you're going to focus, you
5 know, you really need to focus on the water quality and
6 how it affects all species, not just the salmon, but the
7 people that live on the river, the species that live on
8 the river, and how just a simple contact with water that
9 should be clean and pure you can't have. Thank you.

10 MS. RAGAZZI: Thank you.

11 Dr. Cutcha Risling Baldy.

12 CUTCHA RISLING BALDY: Hi. I'm Cutcha Risling
13 Baldy, C-u-t-c-h-a R-i-s-l-i-n-g B-a-l-d-y. I'm a
14 professor of Native American Studies at Humboldt State --
15 just started -- and I am here today specifically because I
16 wanted to speak a little bit about the work that I do when
17 talking about the work that you all do with the
18 environment and water quality as not just being about the
19 science, but about the way that it affects our people and
20 our communities as a whole and the way that, when you look
21 at studies coming out saying that the people who are most
22 affected by the water issues there are happening when it
23 comes to the Klamath dams are native people and that our
24 native people have very high rates of suicide and very
25 high rates of violence, and some of that comes out of the

1 things happening in our environment and the things we have
2 to contend with as people on a regular basis.

3 So in 2002, there was a massive fish kill on the
4 Klamath River, and I went to speak to my grandfather and
5 talk to him about what that was like to see thousands upon
6 thousands of dead fish, and he said to me, "What does this
7 mean for our future and for our people? What does this
8 mean for who we are as a people today?" and he was looking
9 at it as what does it mean that this can be allowed to
10 happen in our society, that we can be allowed to be faced
11 with the dead carcasses of fish and the sort of sadness
12 that comes with that and what will we carry with us now
13 that we've had to live through that.

14 So what I have started to do as a researcher is
15 to look at the way the environment impacts who we are as a
16 people, and that's something that I want you to consider.
17 The taking down of the dams is not just about the fact
18 that the science supports it and it's not just about the
19 fact that it is actually more economically beneficial for
20 everyone in the state if we do it, it's that it is
21 actually going to help us on a social level to be
22 healthier individuals in our society.

23 I think a lot about a scholar who said one of
24 the things about the society that we live in today is that
25 we are taught that we live in a world with rights, not

1 responsibilities, and we start to think that things are
2 our right -- we have a right to this water. We have a
3 right to have dams -- rather than what is our
4 responsibility to the world that we live in.

5 Native people have always looked at our
6 responsibilities. Who are we responsible for and to? We
7 do not fish just because it is our right. We fish because
8 it is part of our responsibility to this earth. It's the
9 things that we take care of.

10 So as we move forward, I urge you to think about
11 what your responsibilities are for our future. It's not
12 just now, but seven generations into the future. Think
13 about the fact that there is no other alternative but dam
14 removal for our children and our children's children and
15 our great, great grandchildren. It's the only way that
16 we're going to be able to start to heal all of the things
17 that we see that are affecting us today. Thank you.

18 MS. RAGAZZI: Thank you.

19 Lisa Sundberry followed by Andrew Bocarowski
20 followed by Christian Richer.

21 LISA SUNDBERG: Hi. My name is Lisa Sundberg.

22 MS. RAGAZZI: Spell your name.

23 LISA SUNDBERG: S-u-n-d-b-e-r-g.

24 I am a tribal member of the Trinidad Rancheria
25 and I was raised on the Trinidad Rancheria. I'm Yurok.

1 I'm no other type of Indian, I'm just Yurok, and I was
2 raised on the Yurok reservation and the Rancheria -- I
3 spent my life growing up in both places -- and so I'm a
4 descendant of villages Churey, which is Trinidad, as well
5 as Big Lagoon and villages up and down the Klamath River
6 as well. Yurok people are river and coastal Indians, and
7 my rancheria is a coastal Yurok community predominantly
8 and/or organized under the Hoopa, the 1906 Rancheria Act.

9 Our family -- I wanted to say also, you don't
10 stop becoming a Yurok because you're from a different
11 tribal organization, so we continue to practice our
12 ceremonies, and so before the Yurok Tribe was organized,
13 under the Hoopa/Yurok Settlement Act, which I won't get
14 into all that, but anyway, before the Yurok Tribe was
15 organized, my mom was a chairman of the Trinidad Rancheria
16 for 28 years, and as a community activist, even when I was
17 young, we stood in the gap where we could to support Yurok
18 rights, even though there was no tribal government there
19 at that time, and so some of the things that we worked on
20 was protecting the salmon and the water wherever we could,
21 because we're a government and it's always that
22 government-to-government relationship that's so important,
23 that gives people voices, but I'm glad to be here as an
24 individual today talking to you about this and that we
25 have a voice as individuals to be heard.

1 So I also worked on things like protecting
2 traditional ways of the Yurok practices when it was
3 tribe-based at that time, and we hosted some of the first
4 discussions between the Native Americans and the
5 commercial and sport fishermen to come together as a
6 common body of people who are interested in the fisheries
7 just in general and not continue to fight, because we
8 didn't have anything to fight over if there's no fish, and
9 so we do host the ceremonies at Sumig and so our
10 ceremonies are being affected by these low runs as well.

11 Last year salmon festival and our ceremonies
12 were affected by the fact there was no -- a low salmon
13 run, and I echo the comments made earlier by the Yurok
14 tribal councilman about the fact that, you know, you can't
15 swim in the river and, you know, the social impacts.

16 There's other things that contributed to the low
17 salmon runs besides, and it's the timber practices. The
18 incremental things that happened to our land from the gold
19 rush to the timber rush, the dams, all these things to
20 undo.

21 I can only remember the stories of hearing that
22 the salmon were so thick in the runs that you could walk
23 across their backs. That's how plentiful they were when
24 they came up the river. In my lifetime, I have not seen
25 that because of these practices that have gone along.

1 They have affected that.

2 I hope that my grandchildren will be able to see
3 those banks so plentiful again that they'll be able to
4 walk across them, and I support the removal of the dams
5 and to do it timely.

6 MS. RAGAZZI: Andrew, Christian, Jenna Bader.

7 ANDREW ORAHOSKE: Good evening. My name is
8 Andrew Orahoske, O-r-a-h-o-s-k-e. Thank you for coming up
9 to the North Coast to listen to everyone this evening, and
10 I hope you come back, perhaps next time, to the Klamath
11 River, the mouth of the Klamath, for some future meetings.

12 I've been living in the region for about 15
13 years and worked as a biologist, a conservationist, and
14 more recently, in outdoor recreation as a river guide, and
15 it's in that capacity I'm really excited about prospects
16 on the Klamath River. Soon I'll be able to float from
17 Oregon to the ocean on the Klamath. I'm really excited by
18 that. I'd like to thank everyone for giving me that
19 opportunity and to believe able to share it with others.

20 I've got four things to share specifically with
21 you about this project. The first thing, the project
22 area, I notice that the Trinity River, the South Fork
23 Klamath River, is looks like it's outside of the project
24 area, and I think in basically every decision on the
25 Klamath River, the Trinity River and it's vantagement,

1 because a lot of that water is taken out of basin, as you
2 know, to meet water quality standards on the Sacramento
3 River, I think as this project moves forward, it's going
4 to be really important for the State of California to
5 better manage the Trinity River so that the Klamath River
6 is not left short, as it has been.

7 The second thing is the duties of the State
8 Water Board 401 certification on the Clean Water Act, and
9 many view that as a very narrow responsibility, so narrow
10 that it's been delayed for over a decade. It's primarily
11 a federal process that we're understanding this entire dam
12 removal process to be, and it may get more complicated,
13 which relates to the second.

14 We've been very fortunate over the last eight
15 years to have a relatively non-hostile federal agency
16 administration that has helped the river out to a certain
17 extent, and we haven't faced a hostile administration on
18 the Klamath River, openly hostile. The last time that
19 happened, tens of thousands of fish perished in one event,
20 so that's something to look at going forward as well,
21 because regardless of what these federal agencies may be
22 doing in the next several years, the State of California
23 has a duty under The Clean Water Act and 401
24 certification, but also under the Public Trust Doctrine,
25 to rescue the Klamath River, to rescue the people that

1 depend on the Klamath River.

2 So please remember that regardless of what we
3 may see ahead at a federal level that California needs to
4 step up, and California can be in the driver's seat and
5 see this process through and it can be successful. Thank
6 you.

7 MS. RAGAZZI: Thank you.

8 So Christian Richer. Okay, that's the second
9 time.

10 Jenna Bader, Sammy Genshaw III followed by Colin
11 William Kerosky.

12 JENNA BADER: My name is Jenna Bader, J-e-n-n-a
13 B-a-d-e-r. I'm just here as a citizen in support of
14 undamming the Klamath River. I'm also an environmental
15 science energy and climate graduate from HSU and I work as
16 a certified energy analyst.

17 I have a few points to say. I'm really just
18 echoing what people have said very well tonight. One is
19 that dams are kind of a old creation. We're born into
20 this system, but we don't necessarily have to abide by it.
21 Dams were created with a very narrow framework that
22 doesn't take into account the fact that we need water for
23 other purposes, like our survival. With our climate being
24 threatened, drought, all these things just mean we need to
25 act quickly with the Klamath River.

1 The Klamath River is a life source for local
2 tribes who rely on the river for clean water, rely on it
3 for healthy salmon, for cultural purposes. The river also
4 carries critical nutrients and minerals downstream. Dams
5 are basically halting that stream. Dams completely
6 interrupt the health of the entire watershed, and it's
7 said best by Dr. Amana Shiva in a documentary called "Blue
8 Gold". She explains it the rivers are like our veins
9 distributing vital nutrients through our system. The dams
10 are liked clogged arteries. They're choking us and
11 choking our planet.

12 I want to mention not to forget about the
13 devastating fish die-off that happened in 2002. Just
14 reminding you we need to act quickly. And the Klamath
15 also faces terrifying consequences with companies trying
16 to build pipelines below it. Just worth a mention that
17 there are many threats to the Klamath River, mainly caused
18 by humans, so we need to act quickly to let the Klamath
19 flow freely and get it back to its natural cycle. Thank
20 you.

21 MS. RAGAZZI: Thank you.

22 SAMMY GENSAW III: Aiy yu kwee. Nek now Sammy
23 Gensaw. I come from the village of Requa and have grown
24 up in these type of meetings. I now understand the words
25 of Chief Seattle from Washington and Rocks Baugh of Requa.

1 Creator may have brought your ancestors across this ocean
2 so we could teach you, but the original American settlers
3 did not have the patience for our knowledge. The original
4 American settlers only had one thing on their mind, and
5 they were willing to do anything to get it, including
6 abandoning the base of their own religion, twisting the
7 words of peace from their prophets, using the Bible as a
8 weapon of genocide in this position. May you be the
9 leaders of your generations to listen to the scientists of
10 modern man who study the earth, as my people once did
11 years ago.

12 Eighty percent of original indigenous California
13 has been exterminated. They are still with us. They will
14 always be my people. As an American, I feel the pain of
15 your ancestors. Sorry. As an American, I feel the pain
16 of your ancestors because they are now my ancestors as
17 well. We may differ in many ways, but the shames and
18 benefits of a colonized America are shared. Fortunately,
19 my surviving ancestors had the patience to not only learn
20 the American way of life, but build up the foundation
21 indigenous societies stand on today. Fortunately, my
22 people left the banks of the river to learn English
23 language so your ancestors will no longer treat us as
24 savage beasts, but instead listen to us as fellow
25 Americans.

1 Living on the reservation, I see the stress of
2 historical trauma on a daily basis. Although I strive to
3 live a good life, every day is a struggle. My whole
4 existence has been among these rivers as a fisherman, but
5 now there are not enough salmon, not even for each of my
6 people to have one fish.

7 My first boat had been burned and carved from
8 the ancient wood of my peoples, but I cannot do the same
9 for my nephews because most of our forests I cannot go.
10 My favorite memories were formed deep within the Redwood
11 forests or at the mouth of the Klamath River where my
12 parents raised me. These are the same places I will spend
13 the rest of my life.

14 I was brought up in a world of tradition values
15 surrounded by the love and pain that come with being
16 indigenous. Many people in this room have guided every
17 step of my growth and support the work I do now.

18 Family lore states as a man of the river, when
19 the river is sick, I am also sick. When a family member
20 is sick, we do not leave them. We help them get better,
21 and that's what I'm asking you to do is to help us be able
22 to help our family make themselves better, because we have
23 people coming back to our homeland, but we cannot support
24 them without a healthy, thriving river, so I ask you guys,
25 please, help make our rivers great again. Thank you.

1 MS. RAGAZZI: Colin William -- I think it's
2 Kerosky followed by Jon-Luke Gensaw and Joe James.

3 COLIN WILLIAM KEROSKY: Colin William Kerosky,
4 C-o-l-i-n W-i-l-l-i-a-m K-e-r-o-s-k-y.

5 I'd like to thank you all for bringing everybody
6 together once again. I am a resident of Phoenix, Oregon.
7 I've been watching this process very closely, and it's
8 very inspirational to see such a large community support
9 something that seems so obviously scientifically
10 beneficial. We appreciate all the work you've been doing
11 for these water quality committees, and I'd like to
12 recommend that you expedite them and really be part of
13 this process in Oregon.

14 On a final note, the last time I was down here,
15 I was a young man and my mother had been working with the
16 conservation movement. Sneaking off from their cricket
17 game, I found an old man along the river. He was watching
18 the salmon run which was the first one I had seen in my
19 life. I didn't notice until I almost left that he was
20 crying, and part of it was because he had seen me watching
21 it and this was something he thought future generations
22 would not be able to enjoy to the level the tribes had.

23 Even though it's not directly related to this
24 permitting process, I'd like to urge you to expedite the
25 removal of these dams so people have the right to enjoy

1 the salmon as well as I did for a short period. Thank
2 you.

3 MS. RAGAZZI: Thank you.

4 JON-LUKE GENSAW: Aiy yu kwee. Nek now Jon
5 Gensaw. I come from Requa, my village at the mouth of the
6 Klamath. I personally know that the river is important --
7 let me start from the top.

8 I come tonight from Klamath. My ancestors lived
9 along the banks since the world was created. I speak for
10 them when I say the river is my mother, just as important
11 as my biological. Although I never had too much, the
12 river had moments in life. That's all I have every had.
13 I come from a big family with six relatives -- two
14 brothers, two sisters, and the river.

15 I may not be the most educated on the science of
16 the river, but I do know that the river is very sick. I
17 hear stories of the quality and the death of quantity,
18 purity. My traditions are carried word-of-mouth, and when
19 the river dies, so does my traditions and my religion and
20 my spirit. I know that the knowledge is deep as my roots
21 for this land.

22 I may not be the best public speaker, but I feel
23 like this is very important. I personally know that the
24 river is important to everybody, not just indigenous.
25 Water is life, life is energy and currents and is what you

1 make it, and at the end of the day, being indigenous is a
2 mind-set. Thank you.

3 MS. RAGAZZI: Joe James, followed by Mary Ann
4 Murphy followed by Cena M-a-m, I think.

5 JOE JAMES: Good evening. My name is Joe James,
6 J-o-e J-a-m-e-s. I'm a Yurok tribal member, Yurok tribal
7 council member. I'm from the village of Srey-gon up there
8 on the Klamath River, just upriver from the stream of
9 Pek-won.

10 I wanted to comment that, from the tribal
11 leadership, we fully support the removal of the dams, but
12 also, too, I wanted to talk on the record, talk to the
13 importance of the impacts on our culture it has for us.

14 As a couple of my young brothers have mentioned,
15 lack of salmon this last year, there was more tribal
16 members than we had fish to give out. That was a real
17 huge impact on us. We rely on our salmon for our way of
18 life. We are traditional people. We are hunters, we are
19 gatherers, we are fisherman. We are strong Indian people
20 that rely directly on the salmon that provides for us, and
21 at the same time -- we mentioned respectfulness -- we
22 respect the river and Mother Earth that has provided for
23 us. But getting back to that culture component of it,
24 this year it was really disheartening to provide not just
25 our elders -- we were taught to give the fish to our

1 elders, our community members, during our ceremonies, and
2 when we don't have that, that makes it really tough on the
3 challenge. It doesn't stop the way we are, but it makes
4 things more difficult, and it's a huge, huge red flag, not
5 just this year, but has been for the last four, five-plus
6 years, so I wanted to comment on that, on the cultural
7 side of it.

8 And just a little bit, too, on the economic side
9 of it, too, we have felt the impacts from an economic side
10 that the lack of salmon, the lack of sports fishermen, the
11 lack of business to our enterprises that have impacted to
12 our business there in Klamath.

13 I also wanted to let the people know that Yurok
14 Tribe has been on point and has been a lead, but at the
15 same time, we couldn't have done it by ourselves, and we
16 thank everybody that we continue to work with, our
17 partners, our tribes, our local fisherman, people here on
18 the North Coast, and again, we want to look forward to
19 partnering, collaborating, and working with people in
20 removing the dams and strongly consider using the existing
21 resources to expedite. The Yurok would say
22 "heemerks'ers", hurry up. Like I said, please utilize the
23 existing resources so we break the dams down. Thank you
24 for your time.

25 MS. RAGAZZI: Thank you. Mary Ann Murphy,

1 followed by Cena, followed by Lena Belle Gensaw.

2 CENA MARINO: My name is Cena Marino C-e-n-a
3 M-a-r-i-n-o, and what I'd like to say tonight is the
4 Indian people are awaiting us, as they have on the Dakota
5 Access Project. They're closer to Mother Nature and
6 closer to Mother Earth and we need to listen to them, but
7 for all of us who are concerned with our environmental
8 health, we have to stand together. We have to come out
9 again and again, no matter whether it's the main focus of
10 our concern or not. We have to get together because we
11 have an administration and a cabinet that is not going to
12 support us at all, so we have to work from the grassroots.
13 We have to write letters. We have to make calls. We have
14 to sign petitions whenever we can to get behind each other
15 and to show support for the things we need, to save our
16 planet, to save our earth.

17 It's getting close to the tipping point in a lot
18 of areas, and we see it in the fish, we see it in other
19 species, and we are a species that are at the top and can
20 go down with the rest of them, and that's about all I
21 wanted to say is we really need to stick together. Thank
22 you guys for listening to us.

23 MS. RAGAZZI: Thank you.

24 Lena Belle Crenshaw followed by Dara Alexander.

25 At this point I'm going to -- Dara's the last

1 one I have here, so if there's any other speaker cards out
2 there and you haven't heard your name called, let
3 Christian know.

4 LENA BELLE GENSAW: Aiy yu kwee. Nek now Lena
5 Belle Gensaw. I come here tonight to represent my people
6 from the Yurok Tribe and the people from our lands. I
7 have two young sons and I come here tonight to be able to
8 ask you guys to further the dam removal so that they may
9 have a plentiful future, so they can grow and learn our
10 culture and be part of the land we live upon.

11 A Creator blessed us so we were able to live on
12 the Earth, to live and not to damage the Earth and doing
13 such things that put us in harm's way. I ask that you
14 guys keep an open mind to be able to do what you can to
15 represent the dam removal. Thank you.

16 MS. RAGAZZI: Thank you. Dara Alexander.

17 DARA ALEXANDER: Hello. I'm very nervous. I
18 don't usually speak in front of people.

19 I just want to say I started coming to the
20 Klamath River just on accident 10 or 15 years ago, and
21 it's just an amazing river and I love the people that live
22 on the river, even though I don't know them personally,
23 and I can just -- I can't imagine how beautiful it once
24 was because before it was dirty, became dirty.

25 I just want to say that I believe there are four

1 forces of unification that unify people. There may be
2 more than four, but the ones I know of are the water, the
3 forest, the fire, and the vibration, the rhythm, and the
4 water helps, and the moons, all that help with the river.

5 I believe there's a rhythm to life and the
6 rivers help, and I just believe that a part of the reason
7 why there's war, in part, is because when the water is
8 dirty and people cannot play in the water and they cannot
9 unite in the water and cleanse and heal in the water,
10 where once in summertime the water is like a main magnet
11 and focus to cool off in, you know, that unify people and
12 cleanse people and heal people so that they can be ready
13 and cleaned out and ready to start the winter, and now we
14 cannot go through this cycle. There is no cycle for this,
15 and the native people cannot go through this so they can
16 help heal the Earth, and to me, the indigenous people are
17 like the old growths of the world and so we need to help
18 them. We need to help them. They're trying to help the
19 Earth, and we need to help them. We need to take down
20 these dams and let the river flourish and flow and clean
21 out and -- and so that we can all have more healing and
22 there will be less distraction toward doing other things
23 that are negative, that cause harm and war and violence
24 and competition and just more unity.

25 So I hope we can help to -- to support the

1 people that are the keepers of -- the Earth keepers and
2 that keep the rivers and to keep the sacred ceremonies and
3 healing places and places for playing and flourishing in
4 eternal life of planet Earth. Thank you.

5 MS. RAGAZZI: Thank you. And Thomas Joseph.

6 THOMAS JOSEPH: Good evening. I was late and so
7 I apologize. Are you guys board members or
8 representatives of the board?

9 MS. RAGAZZI: So we're staff.

10 THOMAS JOSEPH: Staff.

11 MS. RAGAZZI: Staff of the Board.

12 THOMAS JOSEPH: Okay, so you're taking this
13 message to the board then.

14 I think most important message that I heard
15 tonight, you know, there's a lot of science, and we all
16 know that the science is correct and right for the removal
17 of the dams. It is going to benefit the waters of
18 California. When you go to Yreka, you'll have some
19 scientists up there, but we have real scientists that have
20 dedicated their lives, have worked hard, have proven this,
21 that dam removal will be beneficial for not only the
22 Klamath Basin, but for the waters of all California.

23 I want you guys to know that's here, that's
24 going to take this message, that the most valuable message
25 to take to the Board is the responsibility to protect and

1 honor indigenous rights and the tribes that have been
2 living in this basin for thousands and thousands of years,
3 and if you don't really, truly feel that or understand
4 that, then you're not really able to take our message to
5 that board.

6 You really have to believe the stories that
7 these people have told are deeply rooted in the blood and
8 the DNA that flows through them for thousands of years,
9 and as representatives of the board that are supposed to
10 look after the best interests of California water, it is
11 your obligation and duty to deliver that message in a
12 powerful way and so you may have to excuse yourself
13 sometime in your personal life to really contemplate and
14 understand what that means, to really dig deep and find
15 the connection that you have with your Creator, that you
16 have with your higher power or whatever you may look to
17 spiritually to understand that the importance of this dam
18 removal is in your hands quite a bit and that you really
19 need to persuade those decision-makers to let them know
20 with all your might, with your all your ability, with all
21 the moves that you may carry that these dams need to come
22 down, not because scientists say that it's correct and
23 right, but because you dug deep within yourselves and
24 found out and know that that's what's best for the State
25 of California, that's what is best for California water.

1 And you're going to receive the same message and
2 the same answers that we all receive, that all these
3 scientists have done for a long time, for decades. You're
4 going to receive a message we all say as indigenous people
5 that have grown up here for thousands of years, that these
6 dams need to come down, but how are you going to be able
7 to deliver that message in a way that is going to move
8 them emotionally for them to do their job in a respectful,
9 honorable manner to protect the waters of California?

10 That's a tricky task, and I applaud you if you do take
11 these words seriously and dig deep and real that you may
12 be able to deliver the message of these people here in a
13 powerful way for the decision-makers for them to make the
14 right decision. I mean, jeez, how many hearings have we
15 been to? Your faces actually look familiar some of you.

16 So continue, continue, but really this is the
17 responsibility of all of us living in this basin and it's
18 the responsibility of your guys' job and task to deliver
19 our message in a powerful way, in a spiritual way, in a
20 meaningful way, that these dams can come down, that you
21 are standing on the right side of history and that you are
22 doing your obligation to protect all California water.

23 Thank you.

24 MS. RAGAZZI: Thank you.

25 Okay, so if you weren't counting, that was 35

1 commenters that we got to hear from tonight, but I do want
2 to say if there's anyone who felt like they didn't get
3 enough time to make a comment, they can come up now, and
4 if there's anyone who didn't put in a speaker card but
5 would like to make a comment, now would be a good time as
6 well.

7 Okay, I want to thank everyone for coming
8 tonight. Again, written comments are due by 5:00 p.m. on
9 February 1st. Thank you all for coming in tonight.

10 (Whereupon, the hearing concluded at 7:01 p.m.)

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1 STATE OF CALIFORNIA)

2 COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT)

3 I, the undersigned, hereby certify that the
4 foregoing hearing was taken in shorthand by me, a
5 Certified Shorthand Reporter, at the time and place
6 therein stated and that the testimony was thereafter
7 reduced, by computer, to typewriting under my direction
8 and supervision.

9 I further certify that I am not of counsel or
10 attorney for either or any of the parties in the foregoing
11 hearing and caption named, nor in any way interested in
12 the event or outcome of this cause and that I am not
13 related to any of the parties thereto.

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IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have

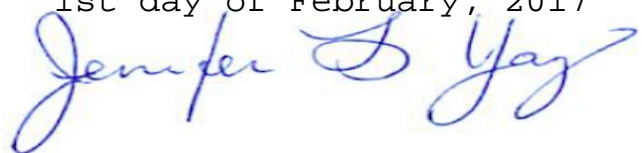
19

hereunto set my hand this

20

1st day of February, 2017

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Jennifer L. Yang, CSR No. 12367

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