

PUBLIC COMMENTOR 255 - KATHLEEN KIRKLAND, SEPTEMBER 24, 1996

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Hello. My name is Kathleen Kirkland. I live at 5898 Carroll Road. I'm not affiliated with any of the groups. I am just right below one of the dam sites, and I have a few comments to make about the EIR.

First of all, I feel that it's incomplete. It's my understanding that the EIR is supposed to deal with all possible solutions, and I know that several were left out. One of them in particular that the army corps of engineers said was a possible solution was to discharge into the ocean directly, and that's not even mentioned in it. Another problem with the EIR is that we have a short time in which to make comments on it and there's not adequate access to the document .

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I can't afford 120 dollars for your 17 volume report, or for your disk. And I might add that copies of the disk can be made for anywhere from 15 to 35 dollars, depending upon the company that you get to do it. I feel like this has already been paid for in the 12 million dollars, and that the access should have been a lot cheaper and a lot more available. Have a friend who tried to look it up in the Sebastopol library, and they had three volumes only.

Next I'd like to talk a little bit about some of the content. As I said, I live below one of the dam sites. I was particularly interested in information on how this water is to be used. You're talking about 4.5 billion gallons over 6,000 acres, according to my understanding. A friend who worked that out said that's 25 to 30 inches of water per acre. This year, with all the rain we had, we had water sitting on our land until after the first of June before it dried up. There's no way that it can hold 25 to 30 inches of water. If it would hold five to ten of irrigation beyond what we get, except in drought years, we'd be doing good.

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It talks about using this water in high tech agriculture, and one of the possible solutions being potatoes. My grandfather raised potatoes on our ranch for years, and all the time he did not irrigate, and the only time he had problems with the crop was when there were early rains and the potatoes rotted. Crops like this cannot grow in that kind of water. It's too much. It will destroy the roots of vegetables, grasses, whatever you put on it. You will have water sitting on the ground. It will cause things like rot in animal's hooves, and it simply--another thing about this is that it assumes that you looked at one property and the property beside it as the same. You can't make that assumption. The property right across the road from us belonged to a cousin for a long time. What the land will handle and what it will do is totally different. The water content of the land is totally different .

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Out there from one side of the creek to another, one side of the road to another, you can have a difference in the amount of water you can find and how well the land will handle it. Next, you took a look at animals and things in the area, wildlife. One thing in particular were the turtles. I've walked up and down our creek in the summer and I heard half a dozen splashes in a quarter of a mile. They say they took a look -- and they went out one day -- and it must have been a foggy day, because they counted six turtles in their

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whole search. What kind of a search did they do when in a quarter of a mile I can have
six turtles going down from our creek into the water? Besides that, there are foxes, 323
bobcats -- I know to the detriment of my animals -- raccoons, opossums, skunks, deer,
and we have ducks that return every year and nest in that creek.

If you put a pond up above, the water's got to stop for a while. Where are those ducks 324
going to go?

I guess in conclusion, what I'm trying to say is I feel like this is an incomplete report that 325/326
it's extremely hard to understand. That a lot of assumptions were made, and that their 327/328
solutions are inadequate and often unworkable. And finally, if you're talking about 329
putting all this water there, and you're saying you're not going to put it into the creeks,
who's going to be responsible for those things that are necessary to keep it out? Because
there's no way that you can put 25 or 30 inches on that land and not have a lot of it run off
into the creek and down into the esteros.

Is it going to be the farmers who pay for it? Is it going to be the county? What? That's
the end of my comments. Thank you.

Mayor Wright:

Thanks, Kathleen. Holly Gustafson followed by Lynette Mclean.