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As a volunteer advisor for the Flood Control District, I would like to thank our community who spoke in overwhelming support of this project at the Baw Faw Grange. This community deserves the same level of protection from severe flooding provided to areas north of us.

The environmental review process is supposed to be objective and fair. I'm not convinced that the review by DOE in this case was either.

The innovative flow through structure will have minimal negative environmental impacts and could bring many positive impacts including reduced stream turbidity, reduced bank erosion, increased vegetative shading, and reduced water temperatures. For some reason, none of these positive impacts were mentioned in the environmental impact report.

The structure will bring improved safety by reducing flood severity. It will protect farmland and residential properties. It will improve economic viability for businesses. It will save lives and livelihoods.

It was made clear by several speakers that bias on the part of the Dept. of Ecology or any publicly funded agency should play no part in this review process. I fully agree.

My hope is that DOE and all agencies and organizations involved in this process can proceed collaboratively, objectively, and fairly going forward.

It's clear this project has overwhelming support from the public. That's because it makes sense.