Good evening. My name is Tom Infusino. I am here tonight on behalf of the Calaveras Planning Coalition. I am here to express our gratitude for the efforts of the East Bay MUD staff over the last six months. It has truly been a season filled with wonders to behold.

Last summer, foothill residents gathered here in Jackson, and in San Andreas, to provide scoping comments on the revised EIR for the 2040 Water Supply Management Plan. At those gatherings, the East Bay MUD staff heard overwhelming testimony in opposition to a higher dam and an expanded Pardee Reservoir.

Last fall, the East Bay MUD staff dutifully prepared a detailed scoping report and presented it to the East Bay MUD Board. For your fine work in communicating our concerns to your Board, we thank the East Bay MUD staff tonight. Thank you.

Last month, Christmas came early for the Calaveras Planning Coalition. In the first week of December, East Bay MUD released the draft revised EIR for its 2040 Water Supply Management Plan. In that EIR, staff recommended that the expansion of Pardee Reservoir, and its associated inundation of the Middle Bar recreation area, be dropped from the 2040 Water Supply Management Plan. For your recommendation to drop the Pardee expansion, to protect our river recreation, and to retain our historic bridge, we at the Coalition thank the East Bay MUD staff tonight. Thank you. We strongly encourage your East Bay MUD Board to adopt the staff recommendation to drop Pardee expansion from the 2040 Plan.

Last week, over a billion Christians world-wide celebrated the feast of the Epiphany. That feast commemorates the arrival in Bethlehem of wise men from the east, to witness the dawn of the salvation of mankind. Webster’s dictionary has a more general definition of the word epiphany: An intuitive grasp of reality through a simple and striking event; a sudden perception of the essential nature or meaning of something.

Despite all the good news of this season, tonight in the foothills, we still await the salvation of our beloved Mokelumne River, through Wild and Scenic Designation. Thus, we encourage the East Bay MUD Board to take the next “intuitive” step: to support wild and scenic designation on the Mokelumne River down to the existing high pool of Pardee Reservoir. The “reality” remains that the ongoing threat of new dams on the Moke hampers the expansion of the recreation and tourism sectors of our foothill economy. Similarly, the “essential nature” of new dams on the Moke, sponsored by competing water interests, threatens the security of East Bay MUD’s long-term water supply. By joining thousands of local and regional supporters for Wild and Scenic Designation of the Moke, EBMUD could work with us to protect our mutual interests. It is this modern day epiphany by the East Bay MUD Board that we at the Coalition await, and for which I continue to pray.

Finally, as Valentine’s Day is approaching next month, I have something to present to the East Bay MUD staff on behalf of the Calaveras Planning Coalition.