

General Public Comment – McGavin 4

To:

Amy Atchley <amy@amyrs.com>

Ann Baker <landarches@gmail.com>

Ben Peters <solarbp@gmail.com>

David Garti <elgarti@gmail.com>

Dan Ellecamp <dansemailus@yahoo.com>

Ann Edminster <ann@annedminster.com>

John Shribbs <jshribbs@cityofpetaluma.org>

Dear Petaluma Climate Action Commissioners,

Please read the following summary excerpted from the 2024 expert witness report from Judith Curry, PhD for MANN v Steyn.

This report concludes that the foundation for the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Climate Change Assessments is fraudulent: "It is my opinion that it is reasonable to have referred to the Hockey Stick in 2012 as 'fraudulent,' in the sense that aspects of it are deceptive and misleading."

Conclusion: The Petaluma Climate Action Commission can not rely on UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Climate Change Assessments as the basis for its local policies.

REPORT OF JUDITH CURRY, PhD For MANN v Steyn | [Source](#) | full pdf attached

I submit this report under D.C. Superior Court Civil Rule 26(a)(2)(B) & (C) as both fact and expert witness to address the subject matter on which I expect to present evidence and to summarize the facts and opinions on which I expect to testify re: Prof Michael Mann's Hockey Stick graph that appeared on the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Third Assessment Report (TAR), published in 2001 . . .

SUMMARY

This report addresses the issue of whether it is reasonable to refer to the Hockey Stick graph as 'fraudulent' in the course of the public debate on climate change.

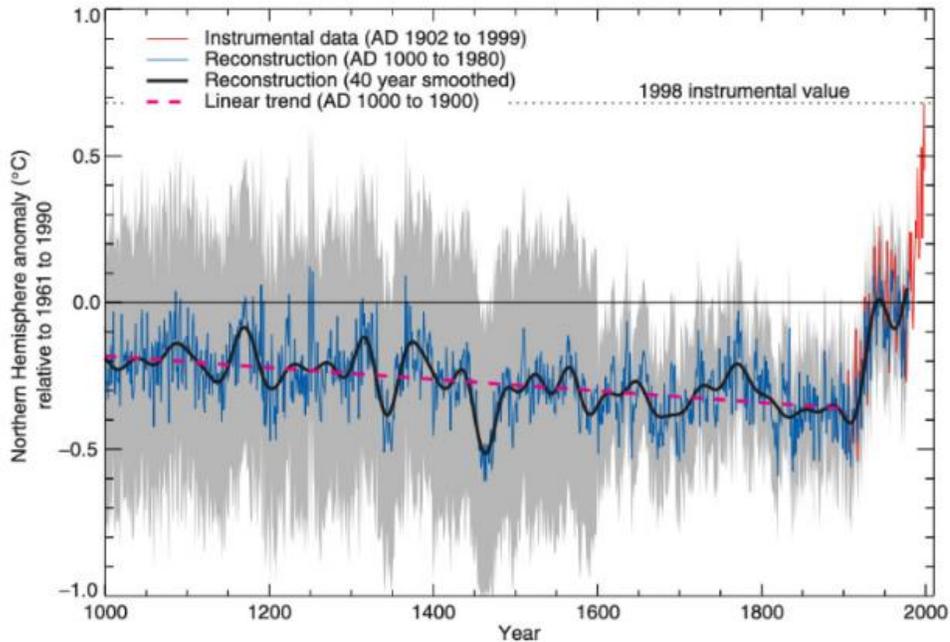


Figure 2.20: Millennial Northern Hemisphere (NH) temperature reconstruction (blue) and instrumental data (red) from AD 1000 to 1999, adapted from Mann *et al.* (1999). Smoother version of NH series (black), linear trend from AD 1000 to 1850 (purple-dashed) and two standard error limits (grey shaded) are shown.

I. What is the nature of the scientific and public controversy concerning the Hockey Stick graph?

It is my opinion that the Hockey Stick has generated a dynamic and heated debate about its significance and its flaws. Since its publication, Mann's Hockey Stick has been the subject of intense and often polemical comment and argument in:

- (a) peer-reviewed, scientific publications critical of the Hockey Stick;
- (b) analyses of the science behind the Hockey Stick on technical climate blogs;
- (c) **published books on the Hockey Stick controversy;**
- (d) articles by leading science journalists in the mainstream media;
- (e) online encyclopedia entries on the 'Hockey Stick Controversy';
- (f) Congressional hearings and investigations related to the Hockey Stick; and
- (g) the personal controversy surrounding Michael Mann in his efforts to defend the Hockey Stick and to thwart his critics.

II. Is it reasonable to regard the Hockey Stick as 'fraudulent'?

It is my opinion that it is reasonable to have referred to the Hockey Stick in 2012 as 'fraudulent,' in the sense that aspects of it are deceptive and misleading:

(i) **Image falsification:** Mann's efforts to conceal the so-called "divergence problem" by deleting downward-trending post-1960 data and also by splicing earlier proxy data with later instrumental data is consistent with most standards of image fraud.

(ii) **Cherry picking:** Evidence shows that Mann engaged in selective data cherry picking to create the Hockey Stick, and that this cherry picking contributes to the perception of a "fraudulent" Hockey Stick by journalists, the public and scientists from other fields.

(iii) **Data falsification** (the 'upside-down' Tiljander proxy): Substantial evidence shows that Mann inverted data from the Tiljander proxies in a version of the Hockey Stick published in 2008. Mann did not acknowledge his mistaken interpretation of data. Even after published identification of the mistake, this mistake has propagated through subsequent literature including the IPCC 4th Assessment Report.

QUALIFICATIONS

I am Professor Emerita and former Chair of the School of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences at the Georgia Institute of Technology ("Georgia Tech"). I am currently President of Climate Forecast Applications Network (CFAN). I received a Ph.D. in atmospheric science from the University of Chicago in 1982. Prior to joining the faculty at Georgia Tech, I held faculty positions at the University of Colorado, Penn State University and Purdue University. My published research spans a variety of topics in climate, including climate dynamics of the Arctic, climate dynamics of extreme weather events, cloud microphysics and climate feedbacks, climate sensitivity and scenarios of future climate variability, and reasoning about climate uncertainty. I have been elected to the rank of Fellow of the American Meteorological Society, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and the American Geophysical Union. I have previously served on the NASA Advisory Council Earth Science Subcommittee, the Department of Energy's Biological and Environmental Research Advisory Committee (BERAC), the National Academies Climate Research Committee and the Space Studies Board, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Climate Working Group. I am a prominent public spokesperson on issues associated with the integrity of climate science, and am proprietor the weblog Climate Etc. at judithcurry.com.

--

Regards,

Paul McGavin