

July 22, 2018 6:52 pm

State Water Resources Control Board

It is the 11th hour. Public comment period ends tomorrow at noon. I am trying to read the document and formalize my comments and all I can do is sit here, tears in my eyes, pain in my heart in absolute heartbreak, denial wanting to creep in that my own government and its agencies are being used against the People. I guess I shouldn't be surprised. These terrorist tactics have been used by our government since the beginning of our history. For the Shasta, this is an old fight. For me, my ancestors were put in Internment Camps during WWII, and I guess that I shouldn't feel like the country I know and love is above this type of behavior, but a part of me is outraged at the betrayal. I hold dear the Constitution and the rule of law. I feel that people whose job it is to ensure public health and safety should actually do that. I believe in Oath Keepers and honesty and integrity. This whole dam scam has been nothing but a journey for me into secret meetings, following a corrupt money trail, and absolute lies, fraud, and deception. How can you possibly grant a license to destroy pristine habitat, and property and lives? How can an agency determine what is best for the People when the People themselves have said NO DAM REMOVAL? How can that right be taken away from the will of the People and their representatives? The KHSB went against the express will of the People of Siskiyou and Klamath Counties. You will destroy entire communities and the customs and culture of what makes living here beautiful and valuable. You will devastate our local economies. These so called NGO's, State and Federal Agencies, and Tribes are all crying they are saving the environment when in fact, they are the ones killing it, and US. This is supposed to be about water quality. Dr Emoto proved scientifically without doubt that water is affected by how it is treated. When treated with love, the crystalline structure of water is beautiful. When it is surrounded by ugly words like hate and horrible music the crystalline structure becomes distorted and cannot retain its shape. For decades now the water has been lied about. It has been fought over. It has been sold. It has been used and abused. It has been corrupted, by practices not of the ranchers and farmers who are natural stewards of the land, but of corrupt politicians, agents, and a predetermined agenda to remove these dams whether it makes sense or not, whether it hurts the environment or not, whether these beautiful reservoirs protect LIFE ITSELF or not. You talk in terms of acre feet and removing buildings and creating jobs. These waters have protected from catastrophic wildfire for a hundred years. They do provide flood control as stated by Fire Chief Tom Mopas in a public meeting over 10 years ago. He said and I quote "if you remove these dams you might as well wipe Seiad off the map, because in heavy rain years we're already under 4 feet of water." With the recent fires it should be a no brainer that dam removal is not an option. But no, because we have to go through this excruciating process of writing our comments and trying to explain to people who don't live here, don't know anything about here except what some study or researcher has done a cursory report on instead of listening to the People whose lives will be impacted the most by this illegal and immoral and unethical process. The job Mark Branson was so proud to provide the local people with is collecting seed samples. Really? Do you think the people of Siskiyou can really benefit from that? They are trying to collect their lives.... From being evacuated, from the lost homes,

the lost photographs and the loss of drinking water. These “jobs” and economic benefit are an insult to what we have already lost..... Years of fighting this stupid battle for the right to keep our way of life intact. Thousands of firefighters were here recently and of the perhaps hundred that I personally have talked to every single one of them said the water is critical to fighting fire. There is no uncertainty that releasing the sediment will destroy life. The question keep being speculated is for how long? Well, how about no action means no loss of life. Seriously. The newest agent against the people is this “toxic blue green algae” which is another monster of the governments creation. Did you know that the US military militarized algae? That fact popped up doing some research. With so much government money and single mindedness in wanting dam removal, how does a People know that they are not being subjected to biological warfare. That, too is a painful part of local history here. Ask the Shasta people, who in 2018 are still not a Federally recognized Tribe and who have had their ancestors poisoned by chemical and biological weapons by our government.. Betty Hall, local Shasta historian and elder for her people was asked by some agent to pick 2 of the 28 CIVIL WAR Veterans remains to protect, since they couldn’t possibly protect all 28. Seriously? The Ancestors are reminding us of what we fight for. We are fighting for our sovereignty and freedom. We are fighting for those who fought and defended those rights with their lives. We cannot and you should not ignore the very foundations of what is morally and ethically right. To destroy so much life for a very much uncertain gain is wrong. There are species of fish that will definitely be destroyed. Bass, perch, crappie, blue gill, endangered Copco Lake suckers, sunfish, catfish, and other warm water life, endangered lamprey eel, and various other mussels and clams, endangered giant California Salamander, endangered Giant Garter Snake, yellow legged frog, and who knows how many other endangered species are all impacted. A new EIR needs to be done just to identify the other endangered species here. These environmental groups are only concerned with trout, salmon and steelhead. If you love nature you care about all life. What about the trees who cannot get up and go to an evacuation shelter when the fires come but stand there burning alive. What about all the wildlife that has to suffer and endure while we humans argue and fight over something so stupid as removing what was historic and monumental as bringing water storage to an area that now creates and sustains life. Now you want to take that away? Only today’s dumbing down would have us destroying what feeds us. Today’s farmer is yesterday’s Native American. Why? Because Big Ag, Big Pharma, Big Government wants to control the People. Genetically modified salmon will save the day when the rivers are destroyed. (insert sarcasm here) Think there isn’t an agenda here? Study after study has been done, all with taxpayer and ratepayer money that show whatever the one who ordered the study wants it to show. It is tobacco science and there are just too many people dumb enough to fall for it. I am not one of them. I know first hand the value of these reservoirs. They have saved my life twice now. I know that our community will no longer be safe, have another perch fry, or be able to enjoy another day on the lake if you take away our right to live the way that we have done. I know that you will destroy the lives of the people who invested their retirement to live life on a lake. I know that you already have taken away so much already because we have to sit here writing once again to another agency that couldn’t care less because it is a job. This is not a job for me. This is my life. I am not getting paid to fight. It is costing me money.... On my power bill, on my property value but it is not just about the money. It is the outrageousness of this. The

stupidity and hubris. It is the breach of trust that has occurred. Several years ago when I was still on the volunteer fire department, we had a training at the dam. We were there to go over what would happen in case of a terrorist attack happened to the dam. Walking inside that building the first thing that struck me was the absolute beauty and immaculate care of the equipment inside. It is a historical achievement. I get so angry when I hear people state over and over that these dams are aging. They are incredible. Well maintained. Should we take down the Statue of Liberty or the White House because they are aging? Or should we preserve them and honor them for what they have done and still do. For gosh sakes, as a Volunteer firefighter going to that training to protect the dams and our community the only thing that has changed for me is that it isn't some random crazy person trying to blow up the dam, but rather sophisticated well paid, well dressed outsiders that are coming to destroy and take away from a life that I love. We don't get paid to live here... it isn't about the money. It is about community, being there for each other whether we know them or not. It is about doing what is right not what is profitable. So, I urge you, do the right thing. Deny the KRRC its DEQ water quality permit.

I refer to ORS 468B.005's definition of pollution.

(5) "Pollution" or "water pollution" means such alteration of the physical, chemical or biological properties of any waters of the state, including change in temperature, taste, color, turbidity, silt or odor of the waters, or such discharge of any liquid, gaseous, solid, radioactive or other substance into any waters of the state, which will or tends to, either by itself or in connection with any other substance, create a public nuisance or which will or tends to render such waters harmful, detrimental or injurious to public health, safety or welfare, or to domestic, commercial, industrial, agricultural, recreational or other legitimate beneficial uses or to livestock, wildlife, fish or other aquatic life or the habitat thereof.

The millions of tons of sediment, waste, and agricultural runoff trapped behind this dam certainly qualifies as pollution under the ORS. Were a regular citizen to approach you for a discharge permit to flow millions of tons of sediment and pollution down a wild and scenic river, it would never even be considered. Your duty is clearly defined. (back to the ORS, again)

(2) The water pollution control laws of this state shall be liberally construed for the accomplishment of the purposes set forth in ORS 468B.015. [Formerly 449.070 and then 468.705]

468B.015 Policy. Whereas pollution of the waters of the state constitutes a menace to public health and welfare, creates public nuisances, is harmful to wildlife, fish and aquatic life and impairs domestic, agricultural, industrial, recreational and other legitimate beneficial uses of water, and whereas the problem of water pollution in this state is closely related to the problem of water pollution in adjoining states, it is hereby declared to be the public policy of the state:

(1) To conserve the waters of the state through innovative approaches, including but not limited to the appropriate reuse of water and wastes;

(2) To protect, maintain and improve the quality of the waters of the state for public water supplies, for the propagation of wildlife, fish and aquatic life and for domestic, agricultural, industrial, municipal, recreational and other legitimate beneficial uses;

(3) To provide that no waste be discharged into any waters of this state without first receiving the necessary treatment or other corrective action to protect the legitimate beneficial uses of such waters;

(4) To provide for the prevention, abatement and control of new or existing water pollution; and

(5) To cooperate with other agencies of the state, agencies of other states and the federal government in carrying out these objectives. [Formerly 449.077 and then 468.710; 2009 c.248 §1]

Everything about this 401 permit plan violates these standards, and destroys the beneficial use of these waters to the state/citizens of Oregon and California. No treatment will be performed by the KRRC, they'd just blow up the dam, and flood the river over a number of years with toxic sediment, while hoping for the best. Originally, the plan offered was to dredge the sediments, but then it was "too expensive". Too bad, I say...follow the law. You wouldn't grant such an exception for a normal citizen wanting to do this...Why should you grant it to Pacificorp/KRRC?

Additionally, where is the contingency/backup plan if KRRC is unable to perform financially or otherwise? It only has the assets transferred from Pacificorp, and

has no assets of its own, or income stream. Where is the evidence that KRRC has the expertise/track record to safely do this? There is none, nor has any been demanded. Why have you not asked for this?

One more time to the ORS:

***468B.020 Prevention of pollution.** (1) Pollution of any of the waters of the state is declared to be not a reasonable or natural use of such waters and to be contrary to the public policy of the State of Oregon, as set forth in ORS 468B.015.*

(2) In order to carry out the public policy set forth in ORS 468B.015, the Department of Environmental Quality shall take such action as is necessary for the prevention of new pollution and the abatement of existing pollution by:

(a) Fostering and encouraging the cooperation of the people, industry, cities and counties, in order to prevent, control and reduce pollution of the waters of the state; and

(b) Requiring the use of all available and reasonable methods necessary to achieve the purposes of ORS 468B.015 and to conform to the standards of water quality and purity established under ORS 468B.048. [Formerly 449.095 and then 468.715]

There is no way you can approve this permit, while following the water pollution laws and policies of the state of Oregon and California, and not only would approving the permit damage the environment and destroy the beneficial use of these waters, it makes the state liable for damages through not following these laws. Do your duty, follow the law and common sense, and deny this water permit. Thank you.

Chrissie Reynolds, Copco Lake Resident