

Barnes, Peter@Waterboards

From: Anita Boone <anita@calstatewide.com>
Sent: Monday, March 23, 2015 12:33 PM
To: Barnes, Peter@Waterboards
Cc: Jeff Boone
Subject: SAVE LAKE ALMANOR

Importance: High

Dear Mr. Barnes,

We are writing to strongly oppose the Water Board staff recommendation in the draft EIR regarding the reduction of cold water in Lake Almanor.

We have owned a small vacation cabin in the town of Chester since 2005, and we have seen first-hand the impact that occurs to businesses when tourism drops off – for whatever reason. There was the Summer of the great fire in 2008, which severely reduced the number of visitors to the lake and hurt businesses. Then there are the years where there is little or no snow, as has been the case the last several years, reducing the number of people who visit the area for snow mobile riding, cross-country skiing, and other Winter activities. This also impacts the Summer visitors, as low snow means a lower lake level. All of these things combined cause businesses to close their doors, and a once vibrant small mountain town is now struggling on many levels to meet the needs of the residents who live there full time.

One fairly constant draw to this area has always been fishing. If the current plan is implemented and cold water is removed from the lake, it is our understanding there is NO QUESTION that the cold water fishery will be DRAMATICALLY reduced. A warmer lake will cause increased algae, which will impact ALL of the Summer water activities that are currently keeping the town of Chester, and the other surrounding communities on and near the lake, afloat! In an era of climate change concerns, intentionally increasing the temperature of Lake Almanor is completely contrary to sensible practice, and might be viewed by some as an act worthy of a law suit. We certainly feel that way, and our livelihood does not depend on the health of that lake – but I guarantee you our quality of life would be impacted. How can the needs of this area, and the health of the lake overall, be ignored in order to provide questionable benefits downstream?

We view Lake Almanor as a min-Lake Tahoe. We urge you to view it in the same light as you would view Lake Tahoe. Anything done to impact this lake is harming a true treasure in Northern California, and the residents and visitors who use it, and whose livelihood depend on it.

Respectfully,
Jeff & Anita Boone

Anita Boone
Office Manager
CALIFORNIA STATEWIDE CDC
SBA Premier Certified Lender
426 D Street
Davis, CA 95616

tel.: (530) 297-2108 | fax: (530) 756-6678
e-mail: anita@calstatewide.org



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