

Peter Barnes,

I am a retired biology teacher of 36 years. I moved up to Prattville, Ca. from the Bay Area in June of 2000. I am writing this letter to show why I'm opposed to the water board staff recommendation in the Draft EIR.

How do you justify the fact that people in Plumas county will lose jobs, business will close, the entire ecology of the area will be dramatically affected, and people will have to move from the Lake Almanor area. Do you honestly think its worth 51 million dollars to destroy one area to possibly help a fishery on the Feather River by lowering the temperature one degree? This is insanity!

Listed below are many of the reasons why the thermal curtain is a bad alternative to help the Feather River Fishery:

1. I have fished the Feather for over 60 years and can still catch big rainbows and browns during the summer months. A one degree lowering of water from 20 to 19 degrees will really not have an impact on fishing.
2. Taking up to 50% of the cold water in Almanor and Butt Lake will make these lakes warmer which will increase algae blooms (look at clear lake or Lake Merced in S.F). Lake will smell and look like split pea soup!
3. Fish will be more prone to disease and die due to stress; fish will all congregate in a few areas where there are cold springs. The fishing pressure would be tremendous in these few areas.
4. With recent climate changes, warmer weather each year, less snow and rain the lake is already getting warmer by natural means. We certainly do not need 50% of our cold water taken.
5. The construction of the thermal curtain would aesthetically and visually be unattractive to our area which could very well deter vacationers.
6. The cost of the curtain of 51 million dollars would be paid by tax payers and not PG&E
7. I'm sure the Maidu tribe will protest the excavation of the curtain in Prattville area where their past cultural burial sites are located.
8. The damaging of lake habitat will affect; crawfish, mayfly populations, damsel flies, midges, chironomis, pond smelt minnows, and many other insects. The fish such as rainbows, browns, salmon, bass, squaw fish, Sacramento perch, carp, and catfish will all be affected. This is known as the food chain and food web which means if you affect one of the physical factors (water temp) you affect the biological factors such as animals, plants and humans.
9. Plumas County was once supported by lumber mill workers but now it is supported by visitors and summer home families and campers especially during the summer who fish, swim and water ski. If the lake gets polluted and fishing is destroyed most business will have to close.
10. One of my daughters and son in law run camp Prattville, and they will have to close. It will destroy their business if fewer people come up to visit and fish etc.

11. Another one of my daughters and son in laws live up here and one is a realtor and the other a contractor. If this area becomes less desirable due to the thermal curtain then there will be significantly less work for them and they will suffer and potentially loose their jobs, and or have to move to support their families
12. I have another son in law who is a guide on the lake and his business will certainly be directly affected in and he will be with out work.
13. Have you considered installing a Freon unit which could convert warm water to cold water? They add Freon units to salt water tanks to make the water colder, is that an option?

In conclusion I am a retired biology teacher of 35 years and moved to Lake Almanor in 2000 to fish, golf, and enjoy the beauty and ecology of the area. I have 3 daughters who llive at Lake Almanor and one son who have a vacation home up here. All my beautiful children and grandchildren, son and daughter in laws will most likely have to leave the area due to reduction in work and income. There alone would be 4 business shut down and 9 kids out of the schools. I too would leave if this thermal curtain goes in since the lake would change drastically and the fishing would be ultimately destroyed at both lakes that I love to fish everyday.

Sincerely,

John Cheli