

Barnes, Peter@Waterboards

From: Chris <cearnest@earthlink.net>
Sent: Wednesday, March 25, 2015 2:31 PM
To: Barnes, Peter@Waterboards
Subject: Thermal Curtain at Lake Almanor

March 25, 2015
5169 Highway 147
Lake Almanor, CA 96137
cearnest@earthlink.net

Peter Barnes, Engineering Geologist
State Water Resources Control Board Division of Water Rights
Water Quality Certification Program
P O Box 2000
Sacramento, CA 95812-2000

Peter.Barnes@waterboards.ca.gov

RE: Lake Almanor Thermal Curtain

Dear Mr. Barnes:

As homeowners on the east shore of Lake Almanor, we are writing to express our strong objection to the Water Board staff recommendation in the draft EIR, calling for construction of a Thermal Curtain at Prattville.

From everything we have read, any benefit downstream would be marginal at best, but the effect on the lake might well be major. The curtain would result in a warmer lake, leading to increased algae blooms, affecting both fish and humans. Moreover, construction of a Thermal Curtain would stir up a lot of silt, which would remain suspended in the lake for a number of years. It seems extremely unjust to damage the lake for a questionable improvement elsewhere.

We also believe that the temperature of downstream water could be lowered as much or more by other much less intrusive means – for example, by planting more trees along the stream itself to provide shade.

Finally, we do not understand how the Water Board can justify such a sweeping proposal without providing a cost-benefit analysis and a cost estimate for the project. For example, has the effect of a Thermal Curtain on property values at the lake been studied and evaluated?

Sincerely,

Christopher and Sally Earnest