

March 24, 2015

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

RE: Draft EIR, PG&E Certification UNFFR Project NO 2105

Dear Mr. Barnes,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the above mentioned project. As stated in the Notice of Availability, the State Water Board must ensure that UNFFR Project operations, including any water quality measures designed to benefit the Upper North Fork Feather River, will not unreasonably affect the water quality and beneficial uses of Lake Almanor. As a property owner (833 Lassen View Drive) and part-time resident looking to retire to Lake Almanor in the near future, my concern is that Alternatives 1 and 2 will have a devastating negative impact on my community, the surrounding communities, the local economy, and the environment.

I am a Professional Civil Engineer in the State of California (C 42066) with over 30 years of water resources experience. My main issue with the Draft EIR is that I find the report inadequate regarding the evaluation and disclosure of significant and unavoidable socioeconomic impacts this project and the proposed Alternatives will have on the Lake Almanor community and environment. I strongly disagree with the statement that increasing the water temperatures of Lake Almanor will not have a "substantial impact". My personal experience has been contrary to your findings. With several years of drought, I have seen firsthand the negative effects that an increase in water temperature has on the lake. We are experiencing more algae than in the past, which in turn reduces the clarity of the lake. Any activity that further reduces cold water in the lake will greatly reduce the cold water fisheries that have made Lake Almanor one of the best fishing destinations in the State of California. My observations are supported by data in the final draft of the Lake Almanor Water Quality Report, 2015.

Increased water temperatures, increased algae, and reduced fisheries will have a devastating negative impact on the local economy, which is heavily dependent upon tourism and already suffering. When I consider the cumulative negative impacts this project will have on the local economy and environment, I wonder what the impact will be on my quality of life and property value. Will more local businesses close? Will I lose needed services, such as our hospital which I have used firsthand, as a result of a worsening local economy?

I can understand how the proposed increase in reservoir releases and the potential installation of thermal curtains at Lake Almanor and Butt Valley reservoir for purposes of temperature control in the river appears to be a "desirable, low cost" alternative to attempt to meet water quality objectives. However, SACRIFICING the Lake Almanor community, economy and environment for the limited benefit of the Upper North Fork Feather River is not a reasonable and appropriate solution. As stated in the Notice of Availability, the State Water Board's determination of whether, and under what conditions, to issue a certification for the future operation of the UNFFR Project will entail consideration of the extent to which UNFFR Project operations increase temperatures in the North Fork Feather River, and the extent to which PG&E can feasibly reduce temperatures in the Upper North Fork Feather River by implementing reasonable temperature control measures. I'm sure that from PG&E's perspective, the relatively low cost reservoir release and thermal curtain alternatives are attractive mitigation measures; however, the evaluation of alternatives in the Draft EIR does not adequately address the significant and unavoidable negative socioeconomic impacts this project will have on the Lake Almanor community and environment.

Adaptive management is the current "buzz word" approach to provide a "systematic, rigorous approach for deliberately learning from management actions with the intent to improve subsequent management policy or practice." However, with the **YEARS** it takes to plan, permit, fund, implement, monitor, learn and respond to the impacts from the proposed management actions, in the meantime, will we lose the one thing that has brought us all here – the enjoyment of Lake Almanor? In conclusion, I am OPPOSED to Alternatives 1 & 2, as described in the Draft EIR, and I believe that pursuing these Alternatives is unreasonable and reckless. I urge the State Water Board to only consider the PG&E project, as submitted and approved in the Settlement Agreement of April 22, 2004, without the additional release of cold water from Lake Almanor.

Respectfully,

John P. Enloe, P.E.  
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