

Dear Mr. Barnes,

I am opposed to the Water Board staff recommendation in the draft EIR.

Exporting most or all of Lake Almanor's cold water pool to achieve a marginal benefit far downstream would be an ecological travesty.

* Where is the environmental justice in damaging one area, Lake Almanor, for a questionable improvement elsewhere?

* How can there be "no significant impact" on Lake Almanor when its cold water fishery is dramatically reduced?

* How can the State Water Board justify such a sweeping proposal without providing a cost estimate and a cost-benefit analysis?

The proposed plan provides no accountability to the people impacted by Water Board decisions. The ramifications on the major environmental habitat that is Lake Almanor would be devastating.

The SWRCB is proposing the Canyon Dam tower and Prattville tower be repaired and altered to take the coldest water from Lake Almanor. They are proposing that flows of the cold water be increased from June 15 through September 15th at a rate of 250cfs, which is a higher flow than is customary. Furthermore, it is at the SWRCB own discretion whether or not to install THERMAL CURTAINS.

SWRCB own science shows that the cold water they plan to remove from Lake Almanor is not sufficient to lower the water downstream to desired temperature in normal or dry years. Therefore, the changes to the flows from the towers is not likely to achieve the impossible goal. The Thermal Curtain will also not obtain their temperature goals.

Our lake, our fish, our community needs Lake Almanor's cold water.

Reducing the cold water pool in Lake Almanor will result in a warmer lake and increased algae blooms, impacting both fish and humans.

In an era of climate change concerns, intentionally increasing the temperature of Lake Almanor is completely contrary to sensible practice.

Sincerely,

Suzanne Hajnik

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Frank Hajnik

741 Lassen View Dr.

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Barnes, Peter@Waterboards

From: Frank T Hajnik <hajnik@verizon.net>
Sent: Thursday, March 12, 2015 1:46 PM
To: Barnes, Peter@Waterboards
Subject: Almanor Thermal Curtain

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

Dear Mr. Barnes,

I thank you for providing me the opportunity to provide feedback on the above mentioned project. 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.

My main issue with the Draft EIR is that I find very little in the report regarding the impacts this project, and the proposed Alternatives, will have on the quality of my life. I strongly disagree with the statement that increasing the water temperatures of Lake Almanor will not have a “substantial impact”. I live here and 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. I fear that 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 dependent upon tourism and already suffering. When I consider all of the 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, as a result of a worsening local economy? 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.

Sincerely,
Frank and Suzanne Hajnik
741 Lassen View Dr. and
751 Lassen View Dr.
Lake Almanor, CA 96137