

Barnes, Peter@Waterboards

From: Devra Heming <devheming@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 23, 2015 1:41 PM
To: Barnes, Peter@Waterboards
Subject: Cold Water Diversion of Lake Almanor

This issue has to be stopped once and for all. California is now in a critical stage regarding its water resources. The studies that were conducted so long ago are no longer valid if they ever were. Lake Almanor is not a source of cold water on a consistent basis. The state is in a critical stage with an unpredictable future for any water supply. During one of the meetings I attended in Chester many years ago, it was pointed out by several professional biologists and naturalists that there were other ways in which a natural restoration program could be initiated to address the problem. Quite frankly, it was obvious that these ideas would never be considered by those entities who wanted the thermal curtains and thermal curtains only. Their minds were already made up and would not be changed.

But that was then, and this is now. The environmental circumstances have changed rapidly over the past 3+ years, and the continued recommendation by your water board is wrong. I believe Lake Almanor will be irrevocably damaged for absolutely no downstream benefit.

One question that you need to answer is: If California remains in a long drought period, and Lake Almanor's water level continues to remain lower than "usual" each year as a result, what is the coldest water temperature can you expect to draw from the lake, and how much water will that be? Another question is: What annual snowpack is needed to sustain the cold water springs and streams that feed the lake? Last year, Mt. Lassen had no snow on it for most of the summer. Most every year prior, one could see a streak of snow remaining on one flank well into the summer, but not last year.

One final question for you and the board is this. If you succeed in this recommendation and the goal of lowering the downstream temperature is not achieved as envisioned, what plan of actions will you and the State take to restore the damage caused both environmentally and financially to Lake Almanor and its surrounding communities?

Sincerely,
Devra D. Heming
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