

Barnes, Peter@Waterboards

From: Brett Hurff <2onthebranch@frontier.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2015 12:43 PM
To: Barnes, Peter@Waterboards
Subject: Please save Lake Almanor and Butt Lake - No cold water release

March 24, 2015

To: Peter Barnes
State Water Resources Control Board
P.O. Box 2000
Sacramento, CA 95812-2000
E-Mail: Peter.Barnes@waterboards.ca.gov

Re: Upper North Fork Feather River Hydroelectric Project Draft EIR

To Whom it May Concern:

We want to express our extreme opposition to the State Boards recommendations in the draft EIR to remove cold water from Lake Almanor and/or Butt Lake via thermal curtain(s) or by release from Canyon Dam.

Since the mid 70's our family has spent every summer at Lake Almanor. All year we would look forward to return to the beautiful lake to camp, fish and play in the water. In 1995 we purchased property at the lake hoping to someday call this area our home. In 2014 my wife and I reached our goal and now we are happy to be full time residents. We are now very concerned about the State Water Resources Control Board's Upper North Fork Feather River Hydroelectric Project Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR). The two proposed alternatives, 1) Thermal Curtain(s) and 2) Cold Water Release From Canyon Dam have many significant impacts which will be detrimental to the Lake Almanor region. The fisheries will be severely threatened, algae blooms will keep the boaters away and all the businesses in the surrounding communities will suffer. We also feel that these very significant impacts to the lake are being overlooked by the SWRCB.

It would be an ecological travesty to kill off a trophy fishery in a resort area to questionably aid or benefit the river downstream. Is there any documentation of fish being harmed due to river temperatures in the area which the colder water is to be supplied to? An easy solution to this problem would to plant fish 40 miles downstream in the Feather River and leave Lake Almanor alone.

The higher water temperature would not only kill the fish but algae blooms will choke the lake. Many boaters will recreate elsewhere due the condition of the water and the altered esthetics of the lake. In turn the communities and the businesses in the area would be threatened.

As noted in the EIR, the draft identifies significant impacts for the following resources: Aesthetics, Air Quality, Cultural Resources, Fisheries, Geology, Geomorphology, Soils, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, Land Use and Mineral Resources, Noise, Recreation, Transportation and Traffic, Vegetation, Wildlife, Sensitive Biological Resources and Water quality. These impacts are not just significant but should be listed as very significant and should be addressed as so. Thorough investigations and studies need to be made on all these

possible devastating impacts to the Lake Almanor and Butt Lake basins. The cons clearly outweigh the pros to proceed with this project.

Clearly there is overwhelming opposition to this entire project for countless reasons. There's many who would like to know the names of those in favor of this plan. It certainly comes to mind that there might be certain people that have a special interest in making the water colder 40 miles downstream? Is this costly, unproven plan for the sake of the fish downstream or is it for something else. I'm sure this will be investigated and we will find out in the future.

The PG&E customers will most likely be on the hook to pay for this multi-million dollar project which has unproven results, that is an outrage in itself. Then add the costs of all the lawsuits to follow would add to the price tag.

We trust that the SWRCB will read and review each and all of the comments which were submitted in opposition to this costly project. We strongly request that you reject the plan(s) to remove cold water from Lake Almanor and Butt Lake by any means to ensure the protection of Lake Almanor and its surrounding communities. Your decision could save or destroy a pristine environment. Please make the right decision.

Sincerely,

Brett & Paula Hurff
3842 Mary Ann Ln
Lake Almanor, CA 96137