

Barnes, Peter@Waterboards

From: Jeff Hurff <jhurff@reagan.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2015 2:29 PM
To: Barnes, Peter@Waterboards
Subject: Please STOP the thermal curtain at Lake Almanor

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:

I want to express my 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.

The waters in Lake Almanor and Butt Lake are already considered warm water. The lakes were not constructed over a deep canyon, but constructed over a vast meadows. The average depth of Lake Almanor is only fifty feet. If these reservoirs were removed, the waters below would be much warmer then they are today. I had an experience last summer, swimming in a cove at Antelope Lake, east of Lake Almanor. It was in a sheltered cove, with algae and plant growth in the area. I was profusely bitten by freshwater snails parasites, The parasites that cause schistosomiasis live in certain types of freshwater snails. The infectious form of the parasite, known as cercariae, emerge from the snail, hence contaminating water. You can become infected when your skin comes in contact with contaminated freshwater. Most human infections are caused by *Schistosoma mansoni*, *S. haematobium*, or *S. japonicum*, which took several weeks to recover and was extraordinary discomforting. I also have heard and witnessed myself, these snails on the shores of Walker Lake (Mountain Meadows Reservoir), as well as a Algae bloom on the surface. This reservoir feeds Lake Almanor, via the Hamilton Branch.

This must **NOT** happen at Lake Almanor. All of us with boats were forced to pay an additional fee, and place stickers on our boats for the battle of the fresh water mussel. Well this thermal curtain will be an open invitation for these invasive species.

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.

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

Jeff Hurff
3822 Mary Ann Lane
Lake Almanor, CA 96137-9500