

Barnes, Peter@Waterboards

From: Ron Martin <ronmartin@ronmartinrealty.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 25, 2015 1:46 PM
To: Barnes, Peter@Waterboards
Subject: Environmental Concerns and Comments to the California State Water Resources Control Board on the Draft Environmental Impact Report

Dear Board Members and “Public Representatives”:

Concerning environmental protection of the Lake Almanor and all tributaries and outflows (Rock Creek-Questa Reach)

1. Any “minimum outflows” mandated by document would be a modification to the environment that this Draft Environmental Impact Report is intended to cover (the negative impacts to the environment due to a modification of that environment).
2. Lake Almanor has been misclassified as a “Cold Water” lake. That has been pointed out yet never addressed in any subsequent reports or studies.
 - A. Upon this false premise all the speculative modifications have been based.
 - B. You cannot take the coldest water out of a warm water lake without significant impact to the intended protection of the environment.
 - C. All premises are based on non-factual (faulty data).
3. The cooler temperatures desired for the fish in the Rock Creek-Questa Reach are not native to the environment but these fish have been introduced as a sport fish by a sporting association who won suit against the State of California to protect this species. In order to protect the environment of Plumas County; these non-native fish should be eliminated and thus causing the law-suit invalid since the Plaintiff on behalf of this species of fish would have no standing in a court of law.
4. A Thermal Curtain installation includes numerous modifications to a sensitive eco-system that supports native fish and numerous animals and yes even human beings economic survival.
5. Regardless of the prevailing party to litigation the responsibility of the Water Control Board is to the Common Good of its constituents (the State of California). In light of the current emergency status of the State with record draught for the last 4 years, how can you possibility consider damaging this sensitive environment that has been around for over 90 years for the sake of a prevailing plaintiff in a lawsuit that has no standing and would have permanent long term negative effects to the environment and ultimately to entire population of the State?
6. If the proposed actions proceed this would likely and even more surely cause the following:
 - A. A warming of the water (the already warm water) of Lake Almanor which would cause an algae bloom which would deplete the oxygen of the water which would kill the native trout; have a chilling effect of a green lake that could then not be suitable for drinking for either animals or humans; would cause the lake to not be suitable for swimming, boating or any other recreation; would wreak with an unbearable odor and would lose all its scenic and attractive attributes; would eventually kill off all the remaining fish except trash fish, thus making it and the Rock Creek Questa Reach unfishable along with Lake Almanor and all its tributaries;

- B. The proposed installation of Thermal Curtains (which has never been tried anywhere – it is just a theory from the University of Iowa by a bunch of students and instructors with a theoretical proposition to modify water temperatures 10 miles away from the affected area. (Since it is only theory – it could likely not even work). This test application would be at the expense of millions upon millions of dollars with devastating effects on water quality; environment; economy and even a tremendous increase in electric rates (nothing is for free!) The electric rates in California WILL INCREASE to PG&E customers! And peoples and livelihoods will be devastated.
 - C. Not just the Thermal Curtains will be installed, but dredging of the bottom of the lake to channel the limited cooler water in the lake curtains themselves. The native Indians have already threatened suite (13 years ago) since they have stated that by the flooding of the lake in the first place has inundated their ancient burial grounds and they stated they will not stand by and let anyone dredge them up now. This will cause legal action by the tribes thus causing many years of litigation and expense to the State and PG&E which will be passed on to the rate payers and tax payers.
 - D. PG&E has been mute on these issues since all delays have been to their benefit since the last F.E.R.C.'s (Federal Energy Regulatory Commission) audit report requires PG&E address erosion into the lake and a multi-million dollar infusion into improving the recreational opportunities such as additional public access campground improvement. Buy the way; PG&E would not have been allowed a rate hike for these improvements or requirements so all delays are to their benefit along with the Thermal Curtains since they can pass that expense on in a rate hike.
 - 1. For the last 14 years since this discussion has begun with the last audit and proposed issuance of a new lease agreement, PG&E has graciously “allowed” lakefront property owners to contract to have their waterfronts rip-wrapped at the cost of anywhere from \$20,000 to \$100,000 each property owner across their frontage to prevent erosion of their property adjacent to the lake. This is the responsibility of PG&E in the Audit Report! (and lucky them; they didn't have to pay to have the shoreline protected from erosion!)
 - 2. PG&E has been allowed to modify the lake level at will and increase their profits without regard to the Lake Level Action Committee agreements that were put into place years ago with impunity. Those agreements were to protect the economic impact of having a low water level during the Summer months on resorts and property owner's property values. They have seemingly disregarded those negotiated agreements since this current issue was raise.
7. If there was a real attempt to cool the temperatures down the Feather River Canyon then it could be done very easily and simply. If PG&E would be required to monitor and limit their outflows to not exceed the inflows the following would happen:
- A. In the late Summer and Fall, higher water levels would not allow cattle to graze on the newly grown grass bordering the grass lands near Chester. The grasses wouldn't grow in the higher water level areas and in the late Winter and Spring then the increased flooding over those newly grown grasses from last Fall and the cattle defecation would not decompose in the lake water causing a tremendous amount of heat to be produced by all that hundreds of acres of decomposition.
 - B. The deeper water levels would naturally cool the water in the lake (everyone knows deeper water is cooler). The current average depth of Lake Almanor is 35 feet (thus misclassified as a cold water lake).
 - C. With the non-varying stream levels downstream from Lake Almanor then the brush tree growth would be able to grow closer to the stream edges and keep the water cooler and would not require PG&E to clear stream edges to prevent debris such as branches to flow downstream and damage their turbines.

I would not consider myself an environmentalist except that I consider the environment as very important to preserve responsibly and not modified for profit or personal gain. God has given man that responsibility and I take that seriously as a Christian. Whatever God says, I believe it.

I am an escapee 36 years ago from Southern California and have appreciated and enjoyed living in this area all these years. I am not a so called expert in how to modify or change in any way our precious resource of beauty, nature and recreation but sure do appreciate it and care for it. I do not understand why representatives of the people would even consider for the sake of a law suit modifying our precious resources, beauty and economy sacrificing it on an unknown. I would be devastated to see what we have here squandered by irresponsible people for the sake of a select few that prevailed selfishly in a law suit. Harming the many all over the State for the sake of a few fisherman that want to fish a certain kind of planted fish. That kind of selfishness is detestable to me. There has been a tremendous amount of time, effort and resources by an army of citizens trying to protect what, if we lose it, we will not be able to recover.

Members of the Water Board, please consider carefully your vote to ruin what we so delicately have. We have been tremendously blessed with what we so easily and quickly could lose. Please don't allow that to happen. If you make the decision to proceed with this devastation, I hope you will have considered the ramifications of ongoing lawsuits and arguments to protect what we already have by all these concerned citizens of this issue.

Sincerely submitted,

Ron Martin



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Barnes, Peter@Waterboards

From: Ron Martin <ronmartin@ronmartinrealty.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 25, 2015 4:56 PM
To: Barnes, Peter@Waterboards; sherrie.thrall@almanorpost.com
Subject: Follow-up letter written earlier.

Dear Board Members,

I neglected to mention in my previous email that I have been selling real estate in the Lake Almanor Basin for the last 36 years and manage vacation rental properties producing revenues to property owners and to Plumas County to the tune of \$300,000 gross revenues annually benefiting the County of Plumas by \$27,000 annually in TOT (Transient Occupancy Taxes) or 9% of the gross revenues. We also own and R.V. Park and provide additional revenues to the county from that, plus we own a Lodge which produces more income plus my Real Estate Office producing \$5,000 to \$10,000 annually to the county for documentary transfer taxes paid. All 4 of these businesses are 95% supported by fishermen and women and vacationers. If the Thermal Curtains are put into place, all 4 of my businesses would be wiped out and I would be forced to leave the area and close my businesses.

That is the reason that I have such a major interest and concern about the demise of Lake Almanor. I have sold most of the small businesses in the area over the last 36 years and I can tell you that none of them would survive if Lake Almanor was ruined. These include gas stations, restaurants, shops, convenience stores, resorts. This does not even mention the devastation to property values. If there were no Lake Almanor for recreation and may I say that it is the best in the West and arguably the best anywhere all the properties would be valueless and the area blighted.

Another major consideration of any negative experimental modification as to the Lake water quality would have a ripple effect all the way to Los Angeles and everywhere in between. Lake Almanor being the headwaters of the Feather River Project and the California Aqueduct. With pollution in the headwaters, how will that affect the water quality in Oroville and Los Angeles?
That project was completed in 1969 I believe.

Rights to the management of the water in Lake Almanor were granted to the Great Western Power Company in 1979 for power production by the Federal Government in 1917, Guy Earl was the president at the time and the lake was named after his 3 daughters Alice, Martha and Eleanor thus AlMaNor or Almanor. Those rights were sold subsequently to PG&E under a leasing agreement with the oversight of FERC. Any requirements made on PG&E by the State requiring profound revenues is ostensibly a tax on the residence of the state if PG&E is allowed to raise their rate schedule (unfair taxation). Please don't allow any undue "tax" to increase profits for PG&E or undue modification to our lake!

Any modification to Lake Almanor should be CAREFULLY considered for the protection of the entire State and any representative of the people has a fiduciary responsibility of this utmost care! Please be that careful and don't take unnecessary risks with our and our children's and grand children's future.

Sincerely,

Ron Martin



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