

615 West Burnt Cedar Rd.
Lake Almanor, CA 91617
March 3, 2015

Mr. Peter Barnes, Engineering Geologist
State Water Board Resource Control Board, Division of Water Rights
Water Quality Certification Program
Sacramento, CA 95812-2000
Via email: Peter.Barnes@waterboards.ca.gov

RE: Draft EIR, PG&E Certification UNFFR Project NO2105

Dear Mr. Barnes:

We are writing to express our concern about the project cited above, which would drain cold water out of Lake Almanor in order to cool the water in the Feather River some 40 miles below the lake. As property owners at Lake Almanor, we strongly object to such a plan.

The draft EIR cites a long list of the negative impacts such a plan would have on this region, damaging its aesthetics, air quality, fisheries, vegetation, wildlife, water quality and more, then concludes that all of the damage except for aesthetics can be reduced to a "less than significant level" though various mitigation measures. This seems wildly optimistic.

Yes, we worry about what would happen to our own property values and those of our neighbors. But our concern goes deeper than that. When warmer water begins to affect oxygen concentration in the lake, discourage fish spawning, interrupt the food chain and drive recreational fishermen to other lakes, and when thermal curtains start to discourage boating, the fact that some parts of Lake Almanor are still pretty isn't going to be enough to keep drawing the seasonal population needed to keep the area economically viable.

In our opinion, that is what is at stake here: the grocery stores and restaurants and hardware stores in Chester; the mom-and-pop shops along Main Street that struggle each year to gain an economic foothold strong enough to keep them going until the next year; the construction workers and home repair people who are trying to make their lives here. These folks don't show up in the EIR and most of them don't own property on the lake, but they are stakeholders, too, and Lake Almanor is their lifeline. Please don't cut it.

We are strongly opposed to alternatives one and two in the EIR and we urge the SWRCB to reject any proposal that would lead to the additional release of cold water from Lake Almanor.

Sincerely,

Theodore J Miller and Carolyn Clark Miller
Tjmiller501@gmail.com