

Barnes, Peter@Waterboards

From: Donna Miller <dlandjdmiller@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 20, 2015 10:29 AM
To: Barnes, Peter@Waterboards
Subject: Upper North Fork Feather River Hydroelectric Project Draft EIR

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing to voice my opposition to the Upper North Fork Feather River Hydroelectric Project Draft Environmental Impact Report. My family and I are long term residents of the Lake Almanor Basin and I currently am enjoying watching the third generation of our family grow up here and enjoy the beauty and recreational opportunities that the area offers. As I consider the possible implications of the Feather River Hydroelectric Project, I am shocked that this project is even being considered and I am adamantly opposed to the proposed actions.

I am concerned about the vast economic impact that this project will have on Lake Almanor. We are a tourist driven community and it is apparent that what is being proposed will greatly affect this industry. Our community and Chamber actively promote programs and publicize opportunities to draw visitors to the area. Our high season centers around visitors enjoying the beauty and activities at the lake. It is difficult, for many impossible, to stay in business without a healthy, profitable summer business. Yet the project being proposed would deal a crushing blow to that season, and thus, to our community's entire economy.

We have seen firsthand what can happen as a lake's water temperature warms. We see the algae blooms in Lake Almanor during the late summer. We know that this is a huge detriment to boating and most water activities when you must make your way through strands of green algae in the water. Have the following results really been considered and taken into account?

- The effects on the tourist industry in our area, specifically the summer boating, swimming and fishing activities.
- The businesses that will be affected due to declining tourism.
- The property values of our homes and businesses.

- The environmental impact upon our fisheries.
- The impact upon the visual beauty and aesthetics of Lake Almanor.

Why is the State Water Board considering alternatives that will harm Lake Almanor's use by draining away the cold water? It is obvious that we have a developing problem with this now, even more so with the questions raised by the long term drought and above average temperatures that we are experiencing. Why are any alternatives to the original settlement reached in 2004 by PG&E, the county and other stakeholders necessary when the proposal to operate per the settlement provides beneficial changes that will cool the river downstream? Why is this EIR and the accompanying request for public input coming at a time when a very large percentage of our population is not residing in the area? In all fairness, this should be happening when most homeowners are present in town during the warmer months.

I respectfully request that you reject the thermal curtain/increased release alternatives and help ensure the protection of this magnificent resource as well as the surrounding communities.

Sincerely,

Donna Miller
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Chester, CA 96020