

Barnes, Peter@Waterboards

From: JN <jn@fireserpent.net>
Sent: Wednesday, March 18, 2015 2:08 PM
To: Barnes, Peter@Waterboards
Subject: Public Input: Draft EIR for FERC Project No. 2105

To Mr. Peter Barnes and the State Water Resources Control Board:

We are opposed to the Water Board staff recommendation in the draft EIR for FERC Project No. 2105 (Upper North Fork Feather River Hydroelectric Project).

Exporting a significant amount of Lake Almanor's cold water pool to achieve a marginal benefit far downstream would be an ecological and economic travesty. There is no environmental justice in damaging one area, (Lake Almanor) for a questionable improvement elsewhere.

How can there be "no significant impact" on Lake Almanor when its cold water fishery is dramatically reduced?

And how can the State Water Board justify such a sweeping proposal without providing a cost estimate, cost-benefit analysis, and economic impact estimate?

The proposed plan does not take into account prior feedback provided to the Water Board by the people impacted by Water Board decisions. Reducing the cold water pool in Lake Almanor will result in a warmer lake and increased algae blooms, negatively impacting the lake's entire ecological system. Additionally, in an era of climate change concerns, intentionally increasing the temperature of Lake Almanor is completely contrary to sensible practice.

The economic consequences of such a move would likewise prove disastrous to the communities surrounding Lake Almanor. The towns of Chester, Prattville, and Greenville, along with the Lake Almanor communities of West Almanor, Hamilton Branch, and LACC all rely on recreation tourism to survive. If Lake Almanor's cold water is depleted and the water level lowered further than where it is now, businesses and the individuals who live and recreate in this community would all suffer irreparable harm.

We strongly urge the Water Board to reconsider publishing its draft EIR as its final version, without first making significant changes to its recommendations. Please listen to the facts presented to the board during the public input meeting and communicated via emails and letters, and weigh those comments heavily when making your decision.

Respectfully Yours,

Dr. Marc and Jerri Nielsen
Chester, CA