

Barnes, Peter@Waterboards

From: The Oests <rloest@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Saturday, March 07, 2015 10:50 AM
To: Barnes, Peter@Waterboards
Subject: Lake Almanor

Dear Mr. Barnes:

I am writing to express my opposition to the California State Water Board staff recommendation in the Project 2105 draft EIR for releasing cold water from the Lake Almanor Basin.

With all the existing climate change and drought, why is there consideration to further manipulate our environment's current state? The facts have changed over the last 9 years since the study commenced, and will continue to do so. How will there be a "significant impact" to downstream water temperatures, but not a "significant impact" to Lake Almanor water temperatures? It simply doesn't balance, or make sense that water will remain cooler as it descends to a lower elevation, not to mention the lack of snowfall and runoff as a result of our current, and projected continual drought years. This recommendation is like stealing from Peter to pay Paul. It is fixing one problem and, in turn, creating another. And it's not just the ecology that will be affected with this proposal, but the local Lake Almanor Community and all who visit here as well.

As you know, the Lake Almanor basin offers all-season recreation, which in turn sustains a livelihood for its' residents and leisure activities for regular and occasional tourists. What amount of recreation and livelihood does releasing cold water downstream provide for people? Here's a simple comparison of recreational activities, not including tourist income / business related, that will be affected by the 2105 Project:

Lake Almanor Recreation & Livelihood	Downstream Recreation & Livelihood
Fishing, Hunting, Swimming, Kayaking, Boating, Biking, Golfing	Fishing

Finally, what will happen when the 2105 Project does not achieve it's intended goal? Who is accountable? How will the State Water Board compensate the Lake Almanor community for the likely negative impact of this disastrous plan?

Until we can control Mother Nature, let's not continue to experiment with manipulating our natural resources. I ask you to please take time to understand ALL the implications not only for the ecology of the Lake Almanor area, but also the community that resides here.

Sincerely,
Rudy Oest
Resident, Lake Almanor West, Chester, CA