

Barnes, Peter@Waterboards

From: Robert Pretel <drbob502@aol.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 21, 2015 9:38 AM
To: Barnes, Peter@Waterboards
Subject: Lake Almanor /water transfer

Peter.Barnes@waterboards.ca.gov

RE: Draft EIR, PG&E Certification UNFFR Project NO 2105

Dear Mr. Barnes,

Thank you for taking the time to listen to the residence of Lake Almanor. As long time property owners we have seen the results of the drought and the result of the climate change and from the transfer of tremendous amounts of water to Southern California. This cumulative effect has had a great impact on all of Northern California.

Our thought and concern is that Alternatives 1 and 2 will have a further devastating negative impact on my community, the surrounding communities, the local economy, and the even more dramatic effect on the local environment.

I strongly disagree with the statement that increasing the water temperatures of Lake Almanor will not have a "substantial impact". I live here and my personal experience has been contrary to your findings. You are welcome to come to our cove and see for yourself. The drought has already increased the water temperature in the lake... The cove areas now develop more weeds and undergrowth. We are experiencing more algae particularly in the coves which in turn reduces the clarity of the lake. I fear that any activity that further reduces cold water in the lake will greatly reduce the cold water fisheries that have made Lake Almanor one of the best fishing destinations in the State of California. Years ago I saw the Clear Lake situation in Lake County suffer irreversible damage and to this day it has not and in all probably will not recover. Please reread and consider the data in the final draft of the Lake Almanor Water Quality Report, 2015.

Increased water temperatures, increased algae, and reduced fisheries will have a devastating negative impact on the local economy, which is dependent upon tourism and already suffering. When I consider all of the negative impacts this project will have on the local economy and environment, we ask what will happen to the entire Northern California fisheries and recreation areas. As the population and tourism decrease will more local businesses close? Will we lose needed services, such as our hospital, as a result of a worsening local economy? Will we lose the one thing that has brought us all here – the enjoyment of Lake Almanor?

In conclusion, we am OPPOSED to Alternatives 1 & 2, as described in the Draft EIR, and I believe that pursuing these Alternatives is unreasonable and reckless. I urge the State Water Board to only consider the PG&E project, as submitted and approved in the Settlement Agreement of April 22, 2004, without the additional release of cold water from Lake Almanor.

Lastly, take a ride to Lake County and Clear Lake. It too was a once fun and wonderful vacation place for recreation and tourism. Today it is depressed and screaming of failure and has really no hope for the future. Please do not make this your legacy and the future of Lake Almanor.

If the premise of driving one electric car will help the environment is valid, and if one person helping the environment is valid, then the following considerations are also valid:

1. Shipping millions of gallons of water daily from Northern California to Southern California will eventually change the health and thermal conditions of the rivers, streams and creeks of Northern California, the health of the trees, the total forest health and all the underground springs and the overall environment of Northern California. This is truly a consequence of what we have done for over 20 years.

2. If to save a stream we then take the cold water from the bottom of a lake, this too will have great unforeseen consequences to the lake and its fishery and local environment.

Please look at this as not just a saving of a stream but also as the ramification involving the destruction of a very nice lake.

3. Would you consider this same treatment for Lake Tahoe if the streams and rivers required temperature adjustments ?? What would be the political ramifications of this application?

Thank you,
Dr. & Mrs Robert W. Pretel

