

Barnes, Peter@Waterboards

From: Rick Rasmussen <rickrasmussen@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 21, 2015 2:40 PM
To: Barnes, Peter@Waterboards
Subject: Draft EIR, PG&E Certification UNFFR Project NO 2105

Mr. Peter Barnes, Engineering Geologist
State Water Board Resource Control Board, Division of Water Rights
Water Quality Certification Program
P.O. Box 2000
Sacramento, CA 95812-2000

VIA EMAIL: Peter.Barnes@waterboards.ca.gov

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

Dear Mr. Barnes,

We thank you for providing us the opportunity to provide feedback on the above mentioned project. Our concern is that Alternatives 1 and 2 will have a devastating negative impact on our community, the surrounding communities, the local economy, and the environment.

My main issue with the Draft EIR is that we find very little in the report regarding the impacts this project, and the proposed Alternatives, will have on the quality of my life. We strongly disagree with the statement that increasing the water temperatures of Lake Almanor will not have a “substantial impact”. We live here during the summer months, and my personal experience has been contrary to your findings. With several years of drought we have seen firsthand the negative effects that an increase in water temperature has on the lake. We are experiencing more algae than in the past, which in turn reduces the clarity of the lake. In addition, we 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. Our observations are supported by 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 we consider all of the negative impacts this project will have on the local economy and environment, we wonder what the impact will be on our quality of life and property value. 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 are OPPOSED to Alternatives 1 & 2, as described in the Draft EIR, and we believe that pursuing these Alternatives is unreasonable and reckless. We therefore 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.

Regards,

Richard & Barbara Rasmussen

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