

Barnes, Peter@Waterboards

From: John Sayler <JohnSayler@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, January 12, 2015 10:25 PM
To: Barnes, Peter@Waterboards
Subject: Lake Almanor

Dear Mr. Barnes,

I am writing to voice **opposition to the proposed “thermal curtain” at Lake Almanor.**

I have been a property owner at Lake Almanor for twelve years. During that time, we have enjoyed the lake immensely. Our family enjoys boating, kayaking, skiing and fishing. I’m now teaching my grandkids to enjoy the outdoors at Lake Almanor. However, we have all seen how fragile our environment has become. There have been years where we have not received the expected snow and our lake has suffered. This year, the water was excessively low and warm around the shorelines. We were cautioned about swimming in the recreation areas because a bacteria had been detected. We do not know what mother nature has in store for the future, but the frightening trend is less precipitation.

Any plan that intends to extract water from the lake, send it 20 miles overland, and dump it into an existing stream to reduce the water temperature of the stream is highly suspect at best. The calculations that would make this work must be based on weather and temperature assumptions based on our current temperature trends. Even then, maintaining low water temperature over a great distance and then relying on the spigot of water to reduce the overall temperature of a stream must be based on risky assumptions. Not only could this plan fail to drop water temperature in a stream,, but it would almost surely increase water temperature in fragile Lake Almanor – especially if temperatures continue higher than normal and precipitation continues lower than normal. A tragic footnote to your administration could be the failure of the plan to aide Rock Creek, and the demise of Lake Almanor as we know it. The damage could be an irreparable blight - warm water, “do not swim” signs, algae, low water, fish die-off, and the decline of the trout fishing industry. The thermal curtain plan rolls the dice on some assumptions about future weather patterns that may not be true at all. It would be a nonrecoverable error that would be explained to future generations “I remember before the State Water Board approved the thermal curtain that caused this to happen at Lake Almanor. I remember when it was blue and large sections were open instead of choked with aquatic weeds.”

Please use common sense and do not fool with Mother Nature. This is a waste of money, and a high stakes game of Russian Roulette with a beautiful lake. Please consider other alternatives. Do not take Lake Almanor for granted. Don’t assume our weather and precipitation won’t change. Don’t risk the future by denying that there could be low water / high temperature years in our future. Thermal curtains are a desperate measure that could fail to help Rock Creek AND doom Lake Almanor.

Thanks for considering my input.