

Barnes, Peter@Waterboards

From: targatop@comcast.net
Sent: Wednesday, March 25, 2015 11:58 PM
To: Barnes, Peter@Waterboards
Cc: Siemens, Catherine
Subject: Upper North Fork Feather River Hydroelectric Project Draft EIR

March 25, 2015

Peter Barnes
State Water Resources Control Board
P.O. Box 2000
Sacramento, CA 95812-2000
E-Mail: Peter.Barnes@waterboards.ca.gov

Re: Upper North Fork Feather River Hydroelectric Project Draft EIR

Dear Mr. Barnes,

I am related to a resident of and a visitor to Plumas County, writing to express my concerns regarding the State Water Resources Control Board's Upper North Fork Feather River Hydroelectric Project Draft Environmental Impact Report ("EIR"). Lake Almanor has been operated for the last 50-some years as a hydro-project. The environment and community has adjusted to this. Now significant changes are being proposed. As I understand it, PG&E, the county, and other stakeholders held extensive negotiations and developed a settlement agreement in 2004. That settlement provided more cold water flows down the river while maintaining enough cold water and suitable lake levels at Lake Almanor so that its recreational benefits would be preserved. Although the EIR includes two project "alternatives" that involve thermal curtains and even more water releases, these would significantly impact Lake Almanor. It seems that the settlement agreement from 2004 already provides beneficial changes that will cool the river downstream!

Those that live in and visit Plumas County value the natural resources of Lake Almanor. The EIR's thermal curtain and increased cold water outflow alternatives will significantly impact the fisheries and visual beauty of Lake Almanor and potentially cause a massive fish kill. The EIR also fails to evaluate the recreational economy that is tied to the Lake Almanor fisheries – an important economic driver in this region. Harm to the fish means harm to the community. The EIR should not ignore this issue.

I request that you reject the thermal curtain / increased release alternatives and ensure protection of Lake Almanor and the surrounding community.

Sincerely,

Pete Siemens
69 Ellenwood Ave 95030

