

Barnes, Peter@Waterboards

From: Catherine Siemens <catsiemens@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 26, 2015 11:16 AM
To: Barnes, Peter@Waterboards
Cc: governor@governor.ca.gov
Subject: Letter in Opposition to UNFFR lake warming project in the shadow of Mount Lassen

March 26, 2015

Peter Barnes, Engineering Geologist

State Water Resources Control Board

Division of Water Rights, Water Quality Certification Program

P.O. Box 2000

Sacramento, CA 95812-2000

E-Mail: Peter.Barnes@waterboards.ca.gov

Re: Upper North Fork Feather River Hydroelectric (UNFFR) Project Draft EIR

Dear Mr. Barnes, Water Resources Control Board Members, and Honorable Governor Jerry Brown:

I am a resident of Oakland, California, a San Francisco teacher, and property owner in Lake Almanor, California. I am writing to oppose the UNFFR Project which will, according to recent scientific papers as cited in Dr. Evan Williams' recent letter to the board, very likely accelerate current warming trends in Lake Almanor and significantly damage the ecology of the lake. This project would essentially be accelerating the effects of climate change in the area. This would have a devastating impact upon lake area wildlife, local businesses, the people of the local communities who depend upon the lake, and property values.

I urge you to oppose this project, because you are potentially acting on what appears to be incomplete and inaccurate information. You have the choice to avoid altering the ecology and surrounding community of Lake Almanor in devastating ways. As Dr. Williams pointed out in his letter, "the document (EIR) concludes that implementation of the UNFFR Project would

have less than significant impact on aquatic habitat conditions in Lake Almanor. " This is simply not the case as evidenced by the research Williams pointed out which describe the deep water, and subsequent associated impacts of warming the lake.

Also, it seems reasonable that the EIR should include a substantial analysis of the resulting economic and human impacts to the area, which it lacks. There are vibrant fishing and hunting communities, including both recreational and commercial uses. There are numerous local businesses and visitors who depend upon the lake in its current state. It is, like Tahoe, a wonderful summer recreational area. Imagine turning it into a green algae lake similar to Clear Lake, ruining this beautiful state treasure in the shadow of Mount Lassen.

The thought of this lake, where I have spent many hours kayaking, fishing, swimming and sailing, turning green with algae, losing its fish population, and changing so dramatically is very upsetting. My partner and I bought a small house in Almanor to enjoy the wonderful area into our retirement years. I am sickened when I read about the likely impact this lake warming project would have.

Please allow the existing ecology, animal habitats, and economy to remain in its current state, retaining the 50 year history of the lake community. This project may have good intentions as far as fish populations down river, but the benefits do not come close to outweighing the the havoc it would cause to the second largest man-made lake in California. I support the local community and many others around the state in opposing this project.

Best Regards:

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