

Barnes, Peter@Waterboards

From: Warren Steiner <wasteiner@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 21, 2015 6:31 PM
To: Barnes, Peter@Waterboards
Subject: Fwd: LACC Kiosk PLEASE READ DO NOT DELETE, READ IT FIRST VERY IMPORTANT REQUEST

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

Dear Mr Barnes,

I was unable to attend the Town Hall Meeting in Chester that discussed the Draft EIR (Thermal Curtain proposal). As you know this meeting was held by Plumas County District 3 Supervisor Sheri Thrall, PG&E staff, and the State Water Board Staff.

As a third generation visitor and a second generation homeowner at Lake Almanor, I would like to convey to you and the

Water Board my feelings regarding the above mentioned issue.

Our greater family has been blessed by a close and gratifying relationship with Lake Almanor since the 1940's. I can remember fishing on the lake with my grandfather, as well as my parents and brothers back when Westwood was a viable lumber milling town, and the only fish in the lake were Rainbow and German Brown trout. I can also remember, vividly, when the lake was almost always full with chilly, pristine, blue, and relatively clear water. Lake Almanor was, and still is, a very special and beautiful place, as well as a tremendous asset to the surrounding region and the people of California. It is my hope that you and others on the Water Board have had the opportunity to experience its beauty, bounty and value to those who visit and inhabit this area.

My family and many others have grave and realistic concerns for Our Lake. Over the decades, the quality of its water has

diminished, at first more slowly, but in recent years more rapidly. There are several obvious reasons for this reality, but the single most significant factor is water temperature.

Now we are faced with the "thermal curtain" issue which, if enacted, poses potentially devastating effects to both the lake as well as the regional communities. The water temperature is already too warm. Siphoning its deeper, colder water will only exacerbate this problem.

Environmentally, it will stimulate more algae growth and decrease water clarity, already an existing and increasing problem, especially over the past decade or so. Some algae can become toxic to humans, fish, birds, dogs and other indigenous animals. People who recreate in the lake water have already suffered rashes. (please see today's article regarding cyanobacteria, below).

Economically, businesses and small communities in and around Lake Almanor have basically subsisted over many decades, but generally by a very narrow margin (Clear Creek, Westwood, Hamilton Branch, Big Springs, East Shore, Chester, Canyon Dam, Prattville, Almanor

West, Plumas Pines, Big Cove). To a very large extent, they survive by the influx of people who recreate in the Lake Almanor basin. It is not difficult to imagine, if the lake goes south, there will be a cascading effect and the economy, property values and residents will follow in that same direction shortly thereafter.

Obviously and for good reason I 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 life-sustaining, cold water from Lake Almanor.

It is critical to the survival of Our Lake.....Please Help!

Sincerely,

Warren A Steiner

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<http://www.santacruzsentinel.com/general-news/20150220/coast-lines-feb-21-2015-district-announces-kindergarten-enrollment>

Coast Lines, Feb. 21, 2015: District announces kindergarten enrollment

Watsonville

County issues Pinto and Kelly Lakes advisory

Blue-green algae (cyanobacteria) is blooming at Kelly and Pinto lakes, and Santa Cruz County officials are urging the public to avoid body contact with the algae.

Blue-green algae such as microcystis are known to produce toxins, exposure to which can cause rashes, skin and eye irritation, allergic reactions, gastrointestinal upset, and other effects. At high levels, exposure can result in serious illness or death. Exposure may occur by ingestion, skin contact or inhalation. This includes swimming, wading and water-skiing.

Information visit the California Department of Public Health at cdph.ca.gov.