

Barnes, Peter@Waterboards

From: Kristen Stelzreide <kristend3@frontier.com>
Sent: Friday, March 20, 2015 10:42 AM
To: Barnes, Peter@Waterboards
Subject: Save Lake Almanor from the Thermal Curtain

To whom it may concern:

I'm writing this letter in response to the proposed thermal curtains in Lake Almanor, CA and what I believe will have significant negative impact on the area's environment and economy.

I have lived in the Lake Almanor basin area for over 30 yrs. Over this time period I have watched the area's economy grow and also plummet during the burst of the real estate bubble and the falling out of the proposed Dyer Mountain Ski Resort. I can actually say that the area is less populated and less businesses then when I first moved here in 1979. It is still a struggling economy here and tourists are the main financial resource. This area is the last to recover and we don't need anymore negatives to prevent the recovery of the economy. The drought and water levels also affect the summer season and thankfully we still have some water in our lake, but we are starting the season off with what I believe a record low. Pretty scary to think what is ahead in the future water tables. The lake is the heart of the community and anything that affects it will have devastating consequences to our economy. As it is we are seeing less people during the high season.

Reducing the cold water in Lake Almanor will affect the fish, humans, and increase algae in the lake. I have no doubt this will happen and this is why. Over the last 10 yrs we have already experienced a warming of the lake. Now with the lower water levels and climate change with mild temperatures this will most likely be a trend. I have noticed huge die offs of small fish floating in the water. I first noticed it over on the west shore where the lake is more shallow. I had concerns as I had never seen this over the years and was afraid of pollution run off into the lake. I called the appropriate channels and was told it was due to the warm water which decreased the oxygen level for the small fish in turn caused the massive die off. We have had these same die offs over the last few years. I believe it was last summer if not the summer before the small dead fish were rolling onto the shore, but this time it was on the east side. Also an increase of swimmer's itch which is a parasite that thrives in warmer temperatures. Where is the justice in damaging one area to benefit another? This is a fishing recreation lake and it will impact the economy. We are already facing low lake levels and climate changes which affect our economy. Please don't kill the heart of our community.

Sincerely,

Kristen Stelzriede