

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

[Peter.Barnes@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Peter.Barnes@waterboards.ca.gov)

RE: Draft EIR, PG&E Certification UNFFR Project NO 2105

Dear Mr. Barnes,

I thank you for providing me the opportunity to provide feedback on the above mentioned project. My concern is that Alternatives 1 and 2 will have a devastating negative impact on my community, the surrounding communities, the local economy, and the environment.

My main issue with the Draft EIR is that I find very little in the report regarding the impacts this project, and the proposed Alternatives, will have on the quality of my life. I strongly disagree with the statement that increasing the water temperatures of Lake Almanor will not have a "substantial impact". I live here and my personal experience has been contrary to your findings. With several years of drought I have seen firsthand the negative effects that an increase in water temperature has on the lake. We are experiencing more algae than in the past, which in turn reduces the clarity of the lake. I fear that any activity that further reduces cold water in the lake will greatly reduce the cold water fisheries that have made Lake Almanor one of the best fishing destinations in the State of California. My observations are supported by data in the final draft of the Lake Almanor Water Quality Report, 2015.

Increased water temperatures, increased algae, and reduced fisheries will have a devastating negative impact on the local economy, which is dependent upon already-suffering tourism. When I consider all of the negative impacts this project will have on the local economy and environment, I wonder what the impact will be on my quality of life and property value. Will more local businesses close? Will I lose needed services, such as our hospital, as a result of a worsening local economy? Will we lose the one thing that has brought us all here – the enjoyment of Lake Almanor?

In addition to water quality and economic concerns, there is a clear lack in continuity of environmental protection regulations. We are a local excavation contractor who provides the service of rip rap installation for lakefront landowners seeking erosion protection and bank stabilization. Currently, the process to obtain a permit to install rip rap retaining walls along the shore of Lake Almanor is lengthy and complex. Permits need to be issued by California Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Army Corps of Engineers, and The Department of Water Quality. In most cases, the work approval is based upon low lake level conditions and equipment is forbidden or restricted from entering the watercourse at any time in order to decrease the potential for temporarily increasing water turbidity. This level of permitting is meant to protect the water quality element of the lake's ecosystem. Another element of the lake's ecosystem is water temperature. Why is water temperature less important than water clarity in terms of ecosystem protection? If the cold water is released from Lake Almanor, it stands to reason that the lake does not require such extensive levels of protection overall.

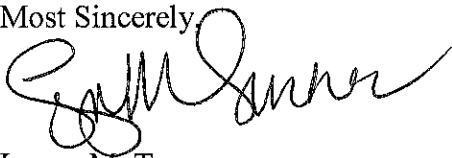
Therefore, permit processes to perform work along Lake Almanor's shores should be simplified significantly in parallel.

As a Licensed Timber Operator, I am familiar with the regulations concerning timber harvest and related activities within a certain distance of a watercourse where fish are always or seasonally present. The regulations listed in the California Forest Practice Rules limit the volume of timber which can be harvested within a class 1 Watercourse and Lake Protection Zone (WLPZ) to 50% of the overstory and 50% of the understory. One reason listed in the regulation is for the protection of water temperature. If it's not important to protect the current water temperature of Lake Almanor waters, then it stands to reason that this regulation of the Forest Practice Rules should be modified as well in order to allow landowners to experience increased financial feasibility during harvest operations.

To summarize, allowing cold water to be released from Lake Almanor is inconsistent with many other current water quality protection regulations. Should this be allowed to proceed, then all other water quality protection regulations should be re-evaluated as well.

In conclusion, **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 cold water from Lake Almanor.

Most Sincerely,



Lynne M. Turner  
Lake Almanor Resident/Business Owner  
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March 12, 2015