

Barnes, Peter@Waterboards

From: Bud Wasson <gadget168@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, March 06, 2015 10:08 AM
To: Barnes, Peter@Waterboards
Subject: 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.

I have been enjoying Lake Almanor since 1965 and now call this area my home. I am a recreational boater as well as a professional boater that uses Lake Almanor exclusively during the summer, spending 40 hours per week on the water. I have always enjoyed the clarity and beauty of Lake Almanor. Last year alone, I noticed a drastic change in the clarity and algae formation in the lake as a result of water temperature changes due to lower water levels. Temperature changes in the water directly affect the growth of plant life as well as changing the fish activity.

Increased water temperatures, increased algae, and reduced fisheries will have a devastating negative impact on the local economy, which is dependent upon tourism and already suffering. 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 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.

Sincerely,

Bud Wasson
Lake Almanor Basin Resident

Please remember to delete my e-mail address before forwarding. Using the "BCC" field rather than the "TO" or "CC" fields protects an individuals privacy and reduces spam and phishing. Thank You