

Barnes, Peter@Waterboards

From: Shauna White <shauna@shaunawhite.net>
Sent: Monday, March 09, 2015 12:05 PM
To: Barnes, Peter@Waterboards
Subject: RE: Draft EIR, PG&E Certification UNFFR Project NO 2105

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

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

Dear Mr. Barnes,

I wish to send my comments regarding the above project. I am really concerned that Alternatives 1 and 2 will have a devastating negative impact on my community, the surrounding communities, the local economy, and the environment.

My family has deep roots in Lake Almanor. Our greater family have owned property there for over 30 years. I have been blessed by Lake Almanor and the surrounding community for as long as I can remember. We have a big all family reunion every July 4th and enjoy everything the lake has to offer. Last summer I was very surprised as to how warm the lake had gotten and many of our family members had skin rashes as a result of swimming in the lake...something I had never experienced before. We are concerned about all aspects of this and what problems it is causing the environment in and around the lake.

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 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.

Shauna White

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