

PB
FERC 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

STATE WATER RESOURCES
CONTROL BOARD

2015 MAR 19 AM 11:25

DIV OF WATER RIGHTS
SACRAMENTO

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. I am convinced 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 we residents of the Almanor Basin. I think the Draft EIR to be poorly researched and I am deeply distressed to read conclusions that increasing the water temperatures of Lake Almanor will not have a "substantial impact." The data simply do support this conclusion. My personal experience as a full time home owner here for many years convinces me that the data strongly suggests that implementation of Alternatives 1 or 2 will significantly harm the quality of life for those of us who live here, and severely damage a local economy already under stress. After several years of drought I have seen firsthand the negative effects that increased water temperature has on the lake. We are experiencing more algae than in the past, and an associated reduction in 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 a sure to have a devastating negative impact on the local economy, which is largely dependent upon 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 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. In my opinion the Draft EIR lacks scientific validity and is a document with a thesis is search of supporting data and as such ignores or denigrates any data that does not support the favored outcome. This is not in any sense of the word creditable and unbiased science. I suggest that as it stands you will find the Draft EIR very difficult to defend in a court of law.



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