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PROJECT 2105

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STATE WATER RESOURCES
CONTROL BOARD

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DIV OF WATER RIGHTS
SACRAMENTO

March 3, 2015

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

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

Dear Mr. Barnes,

We are full time residents of Lake Almanor, CA and have been here for 18 years. One of us came to Chester in 1943 and so has witnessed the lake through it's many ups and downs.

Our main issue with the Draft EIR is that we find very little in the report regarding the impacts this project, and the proposed Alternatives, will have on the quality of our life. We strongly disagree with the statement that increasing the water temperatures of Lake Almanor will not have a "substantial impact". How can there be "no significant impact" on Lake Almanor when it's cold water fishery is dramatically reduced? Our personal experience has been contrary to your findings. With several years of drought we 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. We fear that any activity that furthers 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. Where is the environmental justice in damaging one area, Lake Almanor, for a questionable improvement elsewhere?

Increased water temperature , increased algae, and reduced fisheries will have a devastating negative impact on the local economy, which is dependent upon tourism and already suffering. When we consider all of the negative impacts this project will have on our local economy and environment, we wonder what the impact will be on our 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 economy? Will we lose the one thing that has brought us all here – the enjoyment of Lake Almanor?

In conclusion, we are OPPOSED to Alternatives 1 & 2, as described in the Draft EIR, and we believe that pursuing these Alternatives is unreasonable and reckless. We 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,

David P. Cutler Marilyn T. Cutler
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