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March 4, 2015

STATE WATER RESOURCES
CONTROL BOARD

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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

Dear Mr. Barnes,


I would like to thank you for providing me the opportunity to provide some feedback on the on the Thermal Curtain proposal. 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.

It is my understanding that the Draft EIR contains very little with regards to the impacts this project, and the proposed Alternatives, will have on the quality of my life and others in the surrounding area. I strongly disagree with the statement that increasing the water temperatures of Lake Almanor will not have a "substantial impact". I have lived here year around for over 26 years, and my personal experience has been contrary to your findings. With several years of drought and, warmer summers when we were not in the middle of a drought, I have seen some of 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 am also hearing about other lakes that are having problems with trout being stressed because of higher temperatures associated with warmer climate. And, they don't have a Thermal Curtain. If the Thermal Curtain reduces cold water in the lake, it 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. My neighbor's income is totally dependent on tourism and fishing. 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 than already have? The downturn of the economy was a huge hit to the local economy. 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 beauty and enjoyment of Lake Almanor? The Thermal Curtain is an environmental disaster just by itself and another push by special interests to push their ideology onto others.

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,

Lory Franz


P.O. Box 177
Canyon Dam, CA 95923