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STATE WATER RESOURCES
CONTROL BOARD
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DIV OF WATER RIGHTS
SACRAMENTO

February 11, 2015

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State Water Resources Control Board
Division of Water Rights, Water Quality Certification Program
P.O. Box 2000
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Subject : Lake Almanor/Butt Lake Thermal Curtain

My wife and I oppose the proposed thermal curtain at Lake Almanor and Butt Lake for the following reasons:

- 1) City of Chester and surrounding area economic conditions. The City of Chester and surrounding areas have been adversely affected by many negative economic conditions in the last twenty years. This includes the logging industry, drought, lack of snow, weather changes, forest fires, reduction in employment, and many other things. As a result, there has been a tremendous loss to the tax base of Plumas County. The thermal curtain will only worsen these conditions if the sport fishing industry and recreational systems are lost due to increase water temperatures in Lake Almanor and Butt Lake
- 2) It does not make sense to correct one environmental problem with another much worse problem. We think everyone is in favor of improving water conditions of the Feather River to bring back fish and habitat that once lived there. But the thermal curtain that will increase temperature levels in Lake Almanor and Butt Lake will destroy the type of fish that live there now and will increase the algae levels making fishing and recreational uses useless. Clear Lake is a good example of this.

Based on information received from engineers who live in the Chester area, it would work best if refrigeration systems were installed directly where temperature of water in the Feather River needs to be reduced. This way there will be no loss of water temperature that will happen, if water is sent downstream from Lake Almanor and Butt Lake. In fact if water from Lake Almanor and Butt Lake is used, extra water will have to be sent down stream to compensate for the loss of temperature by the time it reaches where it is needed. This is a loss of water that California does not need. The power to run these refrigeration systems is already there that PG&E generates.

Also, trees need to be planted near the river banks to provide shade that will prevent water temperatures rising quickly.

If the thermal curtain is chosen for Lake Almanor and Butt Lake there will obviously be many legal injunctions. These injunctions will prevent anything from happening for many years down the road. Because of the loss of industries and jobs in this area caused by the thermal curtain, they will be very justified. This will be a shame and loss of more time to help fish and other habitat on the Feather River.

Let's do the job right and install the refrigeration systems on the Feather River.

We appreciate your support in this matter.

Sincerely,

John Freeby
Lydia Freeby

John and Lydia Freeby
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