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January 22, 2015

State Water Board Resources Control Board
Division of Water Rights
Water Quality Certification Program
P.O. Box 2000
Sacramento, CA 95812-2000

Dear Board Members,

Thank you for sending me information on the PG&E application to F.E.R.C. for getting a license to operate Lake Almanor and other facilities. I read the E.I.R. twice and I have the following comments.

E.I.R.

1. Over the last couple of years, about 2/3 of the water flowing into the lake is stream flow largely from Lassen Park up toward Drakesbad. This is geothermal water which is warm. Normally 2/3 of the water would be snow melting which would be cold. So we are seeing a definite change in the numbers.

2. The lake level varies year to year and estimates for the cold water zone do not take this into consideration. In 1976 the lake only held about 600,000 acre feet or less. In a year like this the cool water is a much smaller pool. Taking 600 feet per second in July and August down the canyon could deplete all the cold water in the lake as well as the dissolved oxygen.

3. The report does not deal with possible increased algae bloom and water turbidity. Base line conditions as I have measured in the main arm of the lake have shown a very healthy state of clarity for a shallow lake like Lake Almanor. Lake Almanor is now considered by most people to be the other large desirable California Lake besides Tahoe.

4. The removal of the Pratville levees by excavating or dredging could stir up deposits of methyl-mercury which could be highly toxic to both people and fish in the lake. A lot of people catch fish in this area around Pratville. Nothing in the report addresses this.

5. "Adaptive Management" is a term used in the report to describe how the outlet under the dam would be operated. This is a scary idea because this does not tell anyone about who is responsible for making

these decisions. There is no framework or formula to predict exactly what will happen to the lake level or the limits of water that will be released under the dam.

6. The E.I.R. at the end of the report shows a power house constructed below the dam. Why is that there? PG&E gets power by the huge elevation drop between Pratville down to Butts Lake and then more so with the dip through Caribou #1 and #2 to the bottom of the canyon. The power house being shown would be very unlikely to take the place of Pratville when Pratville was not used.

7. The E.I.R. does not explore the economic effect of its proposals on the economy of Plumas County or Lake Almanor.

8. In 2004, a class of Chester High School made a study of temperature during the summer in various parts of the lake. The teacher reported at the thermal curtain hearing in Chester that their data did not show enough differences in the bottom water temperatures from the surface water temperatures to get the result desired downstream.

9. The E.I.R. did not explore any other alternatives to cooling the river such as were suggested to mitigate their problem; stream restoration was one and planting willows to shade the river was another.

My conclusion is that none of the alternatives in the report were adequately researched to be safe to recommend. I have described above many of the short comings of the report and I know there are many more.

I would like to discuss an alternative that I think has real potential. I call it the **Rodgers Flat Alternative.**

PG&E could drill wells on any suitable locations near the Feather River. They can lay out and make a map of what they would consider the best places for the wells. Then hire a good well driller with the proper equipment to drill test holes where they designate. Test holes are not too expensive. They get core samples of the stratas to determine the best places to drill.

I have drilled many wells. I drilled years ago right next to Butte Creek in Butte County. I got a terrific well. Eaton Well Drilling Co. from Woodland drilled it and they still have the logs. At that time we needed water for a rice field. We were pumping out of Butte Creek where the water temperature was 75 degrees Fahrenheit. The well water temperature was 48 degrees. The well was cased down 100 feet and the well was 500 feet deep. I am sure I was tapping into some Butte Creek water but I was also lifting water from 100 feet. I tell you this experiment because I know the same thing could happen in the feather river canyon.

If you developed 400 to 600 cubic feet per second dumped into the Feather River, it would cool the water and create a trophy trout stream through the canyon. It would be the beginning of a new era. PG&E would generate power with extra water. Those responsible could practice "adoptive management" to enhance the fishery by controlling the water temperature in all reaches of the river. Caribou #1 and #2 could be operated to join with the cold well water to make the perfect mix for the fishery. Extra water would be created to put in Lake Oroville. Because of the well water, dry years would not affect the fishery as adversely as at the present time. In the case of a late warm fall, the wells

would keep the river colder until Lake Almanor started to get cold. This alternative has unlimited potential. The new era in the Feather River canyon would attract sportsmen from all over and help resorts in the canyon. The wells would help provide more water for the rafters. Plumas County would get a tremendous life economically from this new found resource.

During the months when Almanor water is too warm, PG&E could cut down on releases from Almanor and then release more when the fall weather cooled the lake down.

This plan would probably not need a lengthy E.I.R. report. I am drilling wells at this time in Lassen County with only county permits. There would be no threat of lawsuits and the delays that result. It seems to me, with this alternative everyone wins. Please consider this.

Thank you,

Bill Johnson

C.C.
Congressman LaMalfa
Congressman Nielson
Assemblyman Dahle
Plumas County Board of Supervisors, Sharon Thral
John De Jogn, Almanor Brokers
Tom Dauterman
Gary Weibel
Aaron Seandel