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March 18, 2015

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STATE WATER RESOURCES
CONTROL BOARD

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DIV OF WATER RIGHTS
SACRAMENTO

Re: Upper North Fork Feather River Hydroelectric Project Draft EIR

To Whom it May Concern:

I am a resident of Lake Almanor, Plumas County, writing to express my **outrage** regarding the State Water Resources Control Board's Upper North Fork Feather River Hydroelectric Project Draft Environmental Impact Report ("EIR").¹ In general, I find the EIR ill guided, confusing and unclear. Lake Almanor has been operated for the last 50+ years as a hydro-project. Now significant changes are being proposed which will harm the Lake and devastate the surrounding communities.

PG&E, the county, and other stakeholders held extensive negotiations and developed a settlement agreement in 2004. That settlement provided more cold water flows down the river while maintaining enough cold water and suitable lake levels at Lake Almanor so that its recreational benefits would be preserved, isn't that enough? The EIR includes two project "alternatives" that both involve thermal curtains and more water releases. These would significantly impact Lake Almanor.

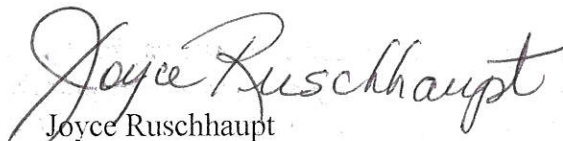
Why are any alternatives necessary when the proposal to operate per the settlement already provides beneficial changes that will cool the river downstream? We release massive amounts of water each June for a few rafters; even in years when we have little water flowing into Lake Almanor.

As an active REALTOR® I can tell you I and many of my clients have moved to this area because we value the natural resources of Lake Almanor which is the largest draw bringing people to invest and live in this area. The EIR's thermal curtain and increased cold water outflow alternatives will significantly impact all aspects of Lake Almanor; not just the Lake but the fragile economy around this area.

The EIR **admits** that these alternatives will significantly impact Lake Almanor's fisheries and potentially cause a massive fish kill. ***Where is Fish & Game in preserving fish habitat? Why would the State Water Board knowingly harm Lake Almanor's beneficial uses? Doesn't CEQA prevented public agencies from harming the environment? We are a shallow lake, 70-90 ft. at the deepest point in comparison to Shasta with a depth of 517 ft. where this alternative works well.***

I **demand** that you reject the thermal curtain / increased release alternatives and ensure protection of Lake Almanor and the surrounding community.

Stop this madness,



Joyce Ruschhaupt
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