

PB
FERC
2105

STATE WATER RESOURCES
CONTROL BOARD

3/19/15

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

2015 MAR 23 AM 11:57

DIV OF WATER RIGHTS
SACRAMENTO

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

Dear Mr. Barnes,

We have lived here full time for 2 years now but have vacationed here for 20 years prior to retiring. The clear water and good lake management through PG&E were a factor in our choice.

The recent meetings regarding the 'project' have brought to light that there is no model or evidence that shows the positive effects of releasing cold water in this specific environment. The report is wishful thinking and guess work. We are amazed that it seems to carry such weight. Attending the meetings also told us that there is no rebuttal offered by the 'pro' side speaker to the negative effects offered by so many voices.

We oppose both option 1 and option 2. Lake Almanor is simply too shallow, with too little in-flow to support additional release of 'cool' water.

Releasing more water than comes in to a lake is simply irresponsible; sacrificing one fishery to attempt to save another does not justify the effects. Increased water temp and algae have already happened in Lake Almanor as a natural side effect of the drought.

Artificially increasing this effect by increasing down stream flow out of a lake that is not that cold to begin with is not good science. Miles of open canyons will not maintain a lower temperature; direct sun and surrounding heated rocks simply overpower that argument.

The report does not show scientific impacts that this project will induce. How could any project, no matter how popular to a small segment, be considered that does not explain the positive/negative effects resulting from it? That makes for very poor politics and further erodes the trust factor in government.

Besides the physical effects there is the local economy and the ripple effect that would occur all over the area starting with services in Chico and Susanville that would no longer see the visitors buying fuel and such before heading up the mountain.

In conclusion, we are opposed to Alternatives 1 & 2, as described in the Draft EIR, pursuing this with its present level of 'evidence' is unreasonable and reckless. At least a new full scientific pro/con report should be undertaken before further discussion happens.

The State Water Board should continue to 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,

Mark and Maureen Vatcher
713 Peninsula Dr.
Lake Almanor, Ca. 96137