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STATE WATER RESOURCES  
CONTROL BOARD

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DIV OF WATER RIGHTS  
SACRAMENTO

Paul Barnes, Engineering Geologist  
State Water Resources Control Board  
Division of Water Rights, Water Quality Certification Program  
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Mr. Barnes.

We are writing to you to express our opposition/disagreement with the recommendations made by the State Water Board in the Draft EIR. The Draft EIR does not reflect an acceptable degree of understanding of the potential devastation of Lake Almanor by removing the lakes deep cold water.

There is a major absence of a balanced perspective. The recommendations were to be "reasonable." Destroying the health of Lake Almanor is unreasonable and irresponsible. The loss of the deep cold water and the reduced level of water available during the months that so many people make use of the area also has significant negative financial impact, not to mention the significant loss of property values for those who have homes and businesses around the lake.

Reasonableness is not present, nor is environmental justice achieved, when action damages one area for the purpose of "maybe" benefitting another area. In this case the area being negatively impacted, Lake Almanor, is a much used asset. Many people have homes and businesses that are dependent on the lake. There are resorts, camp grounds, homes, and vacation rental property in abundance. A much more in-depth and realistic review of the potential negative impact of the proposal on the health of the lake and the entire area around the lake is needed.

Please stop and re-evaluate the reasonableness of every recommendation made by the State Water Resources Control Board. No action should be taken if doing so would have serious negative impact on Lake Almanor including how such action would also have seriously negative impact on the home and business owners and recreation users all around the lake area.

There is question you may want to ask. We learned to ask this question in our line of business years ago. "How would all of this look in the newspaper, on television, the internet, etc?" There is no doubt that in this type of news story Lake Almanor is the victim. What you want to take away will result in the loss of various water life forms (plant life, algae, etc.) that are a vital food source for the lake fish, water fowl, etc. It is a healthy lake now, but it cannot withstand the loss of the life giving deep cold water that some other place wants. Such action will harm, if not destroy, the lake wild life. There is not an excess of this deep cold water, so please rethink what has so unwisely and thoughtlessly been proposed by the Board.

This proposed action results in victimization because Lake Almanor lacks a big enough voice of opposition. Please do not take what we love away from us.

In God We Trust,



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