

Wr401program

From: Thomas Peters <tpete@reninet.com>
Sent: Friday, January 22, 2016 3:32 PM
To: Wr401program
Subject: Clean Water in the Klamath Depends on Dam Removal

Dear Staff and Members of the California State Water Board,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) to support Clean Water Act compliance for the Klamath Hydroelectric Project. As you develop your EIR, we urge you to address the following:

- PacifiCorp has not demonstrated that it can achieve Clean Water Act compliance through their proposed mitigation measures. Therefore, I urge you to only issue a Clean Water certificate if it requires the retirement and removal of Iron Gate, Copco No. 1, CopCo No. 2, and J.C. Boyle dams from the Klamath River.

-I ask you to uphold the law and hold PacifiCorp to the highest standards for water quality. Thousands of people downstream and up as well as millions of fish are dependent on your ruling. Dam removal is the only economical way to seriously improve water quality on the Klamath River.

The myriad benefits of dam removal have been chronicled elsewhere. The only alternative might be extensive fish ladders at prohibitive cost and of marginal value. While they might help the salmon, they will not seriously improve the deplorable water quality above the dams.

- The EIR should address all water quality standards that have been developed for the Klamath River.

- Finally, it is unlawful to continue delaying mitigation of water quality impairments caused by PacifiCorp's facilities. We urge you to complete the EIR and issue a water quality certification requiring dam removal in a timely manner. This is a rare opportunity for the Water Board to make a huge difference for the Klamath River's water quality, fish populations, and all uses of that system. It is time for the Board to act to restore the Klamath to its original state as a healthy and productive river.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments.

Sincerely,

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