

*xcc/bj*

Oct. 13, 2005

STATE WATER RESOURCES  
CONTROL BOARD

2005 OCT 14 PM 3: 23

Sharon Stohrer  
State Water Resources Control Board  
P.O. Box 2000  
Sacramento, CA. 95812-2000

DIV OF WATER RIGHTS  
SACRAMENTO

Ref: FERC project 2105

Sharon,

I am writing to comment on the re-licensing process and EIR requirements for the Upper N. Fork Feather River Hydroelectric project. I would like the proposal to remove cold water from Lake Almanor removed as an option to enhance water quality and lower water temperatures in those reaches below Lake Almanor. I have outlined my reasons for this decision in my letter to the district on April 25, 2005 (copy enclosed).

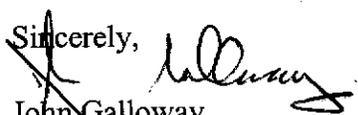
In addition to my original reasoning, I have learned that (1) the project will cost rate payers \$53,000,000.00 dollars for installation of a thermal curtain and related construction; (2) the construction will affect native American burial sites of the Maidu and Greenville Rancheria tribes; (3) there is no scientific data to support the installation of a thermal curtain will achieve a desired reduction in water temperatures; and (4) there is no private, corporate, or government entity that endorses this proposal.

I would suggest that the board consider other viable mitigation measures that have a lower cost and more tangible benefits without the destruction of wild trout populations in Lake Almanor and drastic impact on water quality, local ecosystems, recreation, and the surrounding economy.

Alternatives that should be considered:

1. Restoring riparian vegetation along the affected streams and tributaries.
2. Insulating large steel pipes which supply water to the generating stations at Hamilton branch and Butte Lake reservoir.
3. Monitoring development and controlling impacts from increased urban run-off and pollution.

The people of Chester and the Lake Almanor basin have worked together with PG&E to maintain the quality of the Lake and surrounding areas. It does not make sense for the board to consider removing cold water from Lake Almanor for the reasons I have listed. Please remove this option from the EIR and consider options that are sensitive to those affected groups and options that are cost effective to the public.

Sincerely,  
  
John Galloway

COPY

April 25, 2005

California State Water Resources Control Board  
Mr. Arthur G. Baggett, Jr., Chair  
P.O. Box 100  
Sacramento, CA. 95812

Ref: FERC Project 2105

Dear Chairman Baggett,

I am writing your office to urge the State Water Resources Control Board to withdraw the arbitrary requirement that summertime water temperatures in the lower reaches of the North Fork of the Feather River be maintained at or below 20 degrees Celsius. The results of considerable analysis by PG&E clearly indicate that there is no reasonable means of achieving that goal without causing unacceptable impacts further upstream.

This is the proverbial "tempest in a tea pot" scenario where a vocal minority has tried to impose a legal judgement for some marginal or perceived benefit to the lower reaches of the Feather River. Please consider the ramifications to the fishery in Lake Almanor, which consistently ranks as one of the top ten fishing lakes in California. The installation of a thermal curtain will effectively remove the cold water that trout populations depend for survival during the warm summer months. The net effect will result in decimating the wild trout populations which the Lake currently supports.

The board must consider mitigating measures which will achieve tangible results without changing the Lake ecosystem and other upstream habitat.

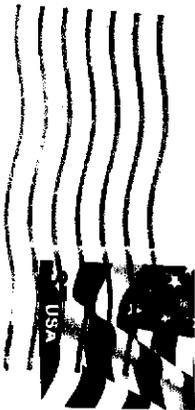
Sincerely,

John Galloway

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State Water Resources Control Board  
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