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STATE WATER RESOURCES  
CONTROL BOARD

10/12/2005

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

2005 OCT 20 PM 12:43

DIV OF WATER RIGHTS  
SACRAMENTO

Dear Ms. Stohrer:

Unfortunately, I was unable to attend the last meeting in Chester regarding the issues around the EIR to be prepared for the Upper North Fork Feather River Hydroelectric Project (FERC #2105). We have a home in the Lake Almanor Country Club, and therefore a vested interest in the outcome of your decisions which effect Lake Almanor.

As one who spoke last fall at another meeting in Chester to an array of agencies and PG&E, I have strong feelings about doing anything which could compromise the excellent fishery in Lake Almanor in an attempt to make a short stretch of the North Fork of the Feather River habitable for trout during August and September.

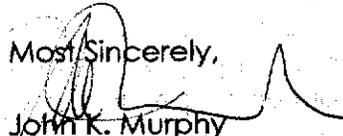
In making your EIR please consider the probable deleterious affect on the trout fishery in Lake Almanor from selectively withdrawing the coolest water from Lake Almanor to transport to the Rock Creek Cresta reaches.

As an avid fisherman I applaud reasonable projects to improve fish habitat. Having regularly fished the Hamilton Branch in August and September, I have caught large lake trout with lesions on their bodies, in the Hamilton Branch. Those lesions are reputed to be the result of habitat stress during the hot months of August/September, when the coolest Lake Almanor water is warmest and lowest in dissolved oxygen. It would be criminal to intentionally remove the coolest water from the lake which could put a large population of lake trout at risk.

Speaking as an engineer, none of the schemes for transporting the coolest water from Lake Almanor to the Rock Creek Cresta reaches appears to be viable. The maximum acceptable temperature at the destination is listed as 20 degrees Celsius. In reality, fishery data shows that number should be  $\leq 19$  degrees Celsius. Without external cooling the water transport system is wholly inadequate to deliver a volume of water capable of cooling the existing volume of water in the Rock Creek Cresta reaches to  $< 20$  degrees Celsius.

Experienced engineers would not take on a project with as little potential for success as this one.

Most Sincerely,

  
John K. Murphy



cc: Bill Dennison

John Murphy



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