

From: <mpm17@humboldt.edu>
To: <commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov>
Date: Tue, Sep 26, 2006 2:18 PM
Subject: Comment Letter 2006 Federal CWA Section 303(d) List

303(d) List
Deadline: 10/20/06 5pm
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Hello,

Am writing to express concern about proliferation of a toxic algae species "Microcystis aeruginosa", "Anabaena flos-aquae" and other toxic algae recently found on the Klamath River. The Clean Water Act List 2006 Section 303(d) lists several sections of the Klamath River as Water Quality Limited Segments, identifying potential sources of pollution as dam construction and water diversion to agriculture. Am encouraging the California Water Board to recommend FERC to decommission and safely remove the lower four Klamath River Dams; Iron Gate (HSA 115.37), Copco 1 & 2 (HSA 105.38), and J.C. Boyle dams, all currently operated and licensed by Pacificorp Corporation until 2006. Do not allow FERC to renew the licenses of Pacificorp's lower four Klamath Dams, these four dams need to be decommissioned so that the endangered salmon may survive. By decommissioning the four lower Klamath River Dams, the segments of the Klamath River listed in 303(d) could once again meet Clean Water Act standards of water quality, with increased flows and cooler temps discouraging proliferation of toxic algae and gill rot bacteria (Ceratomyxosis shasta) responsible for the death of over 50,000 salmon on the Klamath River in 2002.

The restoration of the Klamath River following the decommissioning of the four lower dams mentioned above would provide additional spawning habitat for endangered Chinook and Klamath Coho salmon, steelhead and other anadromous fish, including sturgeon and eel that depend on the clear, cold waters of the Klamath River for their survival. The Yurok, Hupa, and Karuk native nations within California all depend upon the Klamath ecosystem's continuous salmon runs for their cultural and physical survival. The presence of the lower four Klamath River dams interferes with the salmon populations to such extent that there are not enough salmon available to meet the nutritional needs of the native peoples mentioned above. In addition, decommissioning and removal of the four seaward Klamath dams would likely improve salmon habitat in a few years so that a population surplus of salmon runs would become available to both native and non-native fisheries, also boosting the economy along the coast as smoked salmon festivals attract tourists in the summer.

The net hydroelectric power provided by Pacificorp's lower four Klamath Dams is less than 1%, an amount than can be easily replaced by Pacificorp providing sustainable solar and wind generated energy to local communities. Agriculture is not at risk either as the lower four Klamath Dams do not divert any water to agriculture. There is no reason to not decommission the outdated and intrusive lower four Klamath River dams. NO FERC renewal of Iron Gate, Copco 1 & 2, and J.C. Boyle dam licenses!

Thank you for your concern,

Mark Miller
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