

**From:** [Lisa Fischer](#)  
**To:** [Wr401program](#)  
**Subject:** Comments on the Draft EIR Klamath Project  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 26, 2019 11:16:58 AM  
**Attachments:** [Dam removal-State Water Resources Control Board Letter Final 2-26-2019.pdf](#)

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Dear: Ms. Siebel:  
Please see our attached comments.

Sincerely,  
Mark and Lisa Fischer

February 26, 2019

Ms. Michelle Siebal  
State Water Resources Control Board  
Division Of Water Rights-Water Quality Certification Program  
P.O. Box 2000  
Sacramento, CA 95812-2000

Dear Ms. Siebal,

While the water board assumes residents of wells would be mitigated by the KRRC, they will not be responsible for making certain that this happens. The Water Board shifts this responsibility to FERC to enforce. The SWRCB also states in the executive summary the Water State Board cannot ensure implementation of Good Neighbor agreements. What certainty will the KRRC's plan be for mitigation? The KRRC states in their literature that IF wells were to be adversely affected and IF it can be shown to be due to reservoir drawdown, then they would mitigate. What proof will the residents need to show to the KRRC to have their wells made whole again? What time period would the KRRC mitigate?

KRRC's Ground Water Management Plan is a document that is based on incomplete data with no specificity on inadequate funding numbers and a claim of instituting a Good Neighbor Policy. While the SWRCB may trust the KRRC, residents have seen and heard little to instill that trust. If wells go dry, do residents call FERC to be certain that the KRRC will do what they say to make the residents whole again? Will the KRRC still have funds necessary to make residents whole again?

There is nothing in the KRRC Plan that talks about how they intend to fix wells temporarily while fixing wells permanently. How can we live at home? Is KRRC trucking in water? Who pays for hooking up water to existing pipes to the homes? Who will pay to remove these pipes, clean up and hooking up to the new well, returning the home to its original state? Who is paying for the permits for well drilling? It could take numerous attempts to find a good site for one property. Who will pay to dig up the holding tanks some of which are underground, pump house to the new well site if needed? This could cost \$20,000.00 plus. Who will fill in the old well site? Who will repair driveways, fences or other property that can be damaged in the repair of the wells? What happens if a new well cannot be found on the property? Who will pay for temporary housing? There is nothing mentioned about landscape that will perish without wells. There will be no water for fire prevention during well repair work on private properties. Nothing in the KRRC Plan covers who pays for all of the above. It cannot be a verbal understanding. It must be in writing. This is not written in the plan.

If dams are removed, 5 species of fish will be killed. The lost river and short-nose suckers are endangered species of fish. They are protected by law. Removing the dams will kill the lost river and short-nose sucker fish that live behind these dams. AB2640 grants a waiver against these protections. How can federal government and state turn a blind eye to this issue. We are a nation of laws and the lost river and short-nose suckers are protected. Yet in May 2018, the Klamath tribes filed a lawsuit. In the US District Court seeking to shut down the water supply to California and Southern Oregon farmers because of these very same ESA-listed sucker fish. There is an article from [wildlife.ca.gov](http://wildlife.ca.gov) about the history of Iron Gate Hatchery. The article quote:

The environmental license plates funds were used to operate Fall Creek Hatchery. These funds were eliminated in May 2004 and no fish have been raised at this facility since then. The facility has retained its water rights but will need substantial renovation to become operational again. Iron Gate Fish Hatchery will be destroyed with dam removal. Tax payers' money will be used to restore the Fall Creek Hatchery that was closed in May 2004. Why are we destroying a fully functional fish hatchery to spend millions of tax payers' dollars to reopen an outdated fish hatchery.

Yreka currently gets its water from Fall Creek at 15CFS. When the salmon runs come up river, and the river water is low, will salmon trump Yreka's water once the dams are removed? Currently the salmon have plenty of water with the dams in. During the salmon run, these dams provide ample water for the fish.

KRRC plans to run Yreka's water pipe above ground across the Klamath River. That pipe will be vulnerable to rock slides, vandalism, or worse terrorism. The water pipe is currently underground under the Iron Gate Reservoir, PROTECTED.

Ranches that have water rights on Bogus Creek were told recently by Fish and Game that they would have to cut water consumption in half for irrigation. These water rights go back for a long time. This project for dam removal is looking more and more like water control, not about the fish.

Water quality should be tested at the California Oregon state line. It should not be tested below Iron Gate Reservoir. The Upper Klamath Lake is only 14 feet deep on average at max. It will always be warm. Algae blooms start in the Klamath Lake. In the past decades, the algae blooms have moved south to the lower reservoirs. History shows this. History also shows the Klamath River is warm and has given off a stench before JC Boyle, Copco Lake 1, Copco Lake 2 and Iron Gate were built. This is a fact. Until the water is clean coming into California, we should not think of dam decommission. These dams provide flood control, fire prevention, clean power and an abundance of recreational activities. On April 4, 2013, the US Department of Interior released a final environmental Impact Statement (EIS). It talked about for-dam removals and is awaiting approval from congress before the

Secretary of Interior could make a determination of whether the removal of four facilities would advance restoration of the salmonid fisheries of the Klamath Basin and was in public interest. The EIS was developed under provisions of the KHSA and the National Environmental Policy Act. The EIS reveals that over the next few decades after dam removal it could help the salmon, eliminate toxic algae blooms and other water quality problems in the Klamath Basin.

Now 20-30 or more years is a long time to wait on a “could happen” plan. Meanwhile, all the water problems in the Upper Klamath Lake come into California and continue downstream. All the residents around these reservoirs are left with decades of lost home values, loss of fire prevention, higher electricity costs and loss of recreational activities. Where is our compensation for our lost values? NOTHING is mentioned in the KRRC Plan.

The KRRC Plan states up to eight years that will be liable for any problems. That is not enough time when we are talking decades for this river basin to recover. Dave Meurer (KRRC) stated at a June 12, 2018 Copco Lake Meeting that results of dam removal will not be known for 50 years.

March 13, 2017 Jeremy P Jacobs, EE News Reporter wrote:

“The Klamath River originates from the Upper Klamath Lake, a sprawling fresh water lake in Southern Oregon’s high desert that expands to 80,000 acres when full. It is remarkably shallow however and prone to low inflow as well as algae.”

This is where the SWRCB and the water quality control group should start their research in Oregon at Klamath Lake. This is where the algae runs downstream into California. It has always run downstream into California since day one before dams were built. The Indians and settlers did not live along the shores of the Klamath River because of the stench, again before dams. One hundred fifty years later, it is the dams fault for water quality?

Jeremy P Jacobs in the same article mentioned above, quotes:

“The four dams at issue, proponents note, serve virtually no purpose. They are outdated and produce hardly any electricity. They don’t store or divert water for anyone, and they provide no flood control.”

This is a lie. This is what the residents of these reservoirs deal with on a daily basis. Yes, the dams have been operating since 1918, 1925, 1958 and 1962. They supply 77,000 residents and businesses with electricity. The dams have storage for electricity, fish, food storage for all animals, water storage for irrigation, storage for fire prevention and storage

for when the salmon come up river. These reservoirs release water for the salmon runs twice a year. These dams provide flood control for everyone that lives around the Klamath River. Without the dams, there is no flood control.

The reservoirs store water for recreation-like boating, water skiing, canoeing, kayaking, rafting, swimming, fishing and duck and goose hunting. The reservoirs also provide the residents that live around these reservoirs improved property and home values.

If the dams are removed we, as residents, lose all around. No one talks of these loses. This is a fact.

KRRC should put into place how properties around these reservoirs will be reinforced due to slope instability. KRRC should establish cooperation with US Geological surveys (USGS) engineers, National Park Service (NPS) and other public land organizations to establish a landslide observer(s). Emergency response funding has sometimes been used for short-term landslide (rock fall, toppling, creeping, lateral spread) observations and safety determinations following a hazardous failure. This may include aerial reconnaissance combined with NPS search and rescue operations. Designated observers can establish liaison relationships with relevant scientists, general NPS observations and monitoring procedures should be checked, corroborated, or ridiculed by scientists (US NPS).

KRRC plan to spend up to \$450 million on this project. July 12, 2018, KRRC also said it would cost up to \$400 million for fish ladders. No talks about alternative ways NONE, EVER. KRRC also says tax payers would not want to pay for fish ladders. The Indian Tribes are with the KRRC to remove the four dams. Obviously, the Indians Tribes have a lot of pull and are federally recognized. They want the dams removed. 85% plus of Siskiyou residents and 85% plus of Klamath Basin residents voted "NO" against dam removal. We are also federally recognized. We vote and pay taxes. Our voices are not heard nor are our votes being counted at all.

We are hopeful that SWRCB will finally listen to the real stakeholders in this process. We need more current and updated data before anyone takes another step. KRRC and SWRCB should not be relying on data that was gathered 7 years ago.

Respectively submitted,

Mark and Lisa Fischer

Copco Lake, CA

