

Attention:

Parker Thaler  
State Water Resources Control Board  
Division of Water Rights - Water Quality Certification Program  
P. O. Box 2000  
Sacramento, CA 95812-2000

Dear Members of the Water Quality Control Board -

I strongly urge you to support the removal of the 4 large main stem dams on the Klamath River: Iron Gate, Copco 1, Copco 2, and J. C. Boyle Dams. This option is the only alternative that will result in the improvement of water quality conditions below the dams, and the decrease in juvenile fish diseases/parasites that are slowly and invisibly destroying runs of both native and hatchery bred salmonids.

The dams function as "bio-reactors", combining nutrient rich water (from upstream agriculture and young volcanic soils) with solar energy in the stagnant water setting of 3 large and 1 small reservoir. The situation is simple: with the dams, these reservoirs (bio-reactors) adversely impact water quality; without the reservoirs, the river is free-flowing, and the natural processes of oxygenation over riffles helps to process nutrients, without providing conditions for algae growth and parasite concentration.

The poor water quality is also adversely impacting native and non-native communities who rely on the Klamath River for food, recreation, and ceremonial practices. Yurok fishermen suffer from skin rashes during the gill-netting season. Ceremonial leaders "making medicine" and fasting during the World Renewal Ceremonies traditionally bath and cleanse themselves in the Klamath River. Today, with the presence of toxic blue-green algae, this is a life-threatening undertaking.

The failure of Congress to authorize the Klamath Basin Restoration Agreement (KBRA) represents a failure of our political system to accomplish what was clearly recognized as an economic and ecological win-win for farmers, fish, tribes along the river, fishing communities in ocean communities, for the owner of the 4 dams, and for the people of the State of California.

I understand that your Water Quality Certification Process has been in abeyance since the development and signing of the KBRA. Now that the KBRA has been abandoned by Congress, it is up to the Water Quality Control Board to do their jobs, and to enforce the laws of the State of California. As part of the Secretarial Determination, initiated by the KBRA process, there is ample scientific evidence showing the adverse impacts of the dams on water quality, fish health, and human and wildlife health downstream of the dams. With all of this evidence (as well as evidence from numerous other research

efforts, there is no need for new science, or new studies - it is primarily an effort that requires compilation of existing studies and recognition of the impacts of the dams and reservoirs on water quality conditions.

Today, the toxic lead-poisoning of the residents of Flint, Michigan is in the news everyday. It is clear to the general public that the Governor, and the municipal managers and state entities understood that their efforts to cut costs were adversely impacting the downstream communities - especially the impoverished and pre-dominantly African-American communities of Flint. The parallels of this situation with the Klamath River are striking: one of the wealthiest men on earth (Warren Buffett) and his company (PacificCorps) continue to profit by running out-dated and harmful hydro-electric facilities, at the expense of the Tribal communities (Karuk Tribe and Yurok Tribe) that continue to live and practice their religions in and along the banks of the Klamath River. The Tribal and non-tribal communities living downstream of the dams suffer. The fish and other aquatic organisms suffer. The fishing communities suffer. Even innocent pets, wildlife and livestock suffer if they drink or swim in waters during the toxic summer months. This is not right, and in fact, is the reason that Water Quality regulations exist.

I urge you to do your jobs, to follow your mission statements, and to enact the laws of the State of California to deny water quality certification and to urge the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to remove the 4 main stem dams on the Klamath River.

Sincerely yours,

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