

SJS

September 21, 2005

STATE WATER RESOURCES
CONTROL BOARD

State Water Resources Control Board
PO Box 2000
Sacramento, Ca. 95812-2000

2005 SEP 23 PM 3:18

Att: Sharon Stohrer

DIV OF WATER RIGHTS
SACRAMENTO

Subject: Possible installation of "Thermal Curtains" at Lake Almanor, Butt Valley Reservoir, Belden Forebay

This is my reply to a letter I received from your office dated 9/14/05 to Interested Party, "INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE."

Rather than going into a tirade regarding this ridiculous proposal I have enclosed my letters to various local newspapers and letters to some of our elected representatives along with the replies I received from them.

To make a long story short, I believe, until I am convinced otherwise, that this whole fiasco has been set up by various special interest groups to insure large amounts of water be delivered to Southern California during the summer months when they need it most.

As far as I am concerned, anyone who has done their homework and followed this process since the "Rock Creek-Cresta Agreement" was signed, up to the present, has to be really gullible to believe that this has anything to do with "protecting the fish" and the environment in the North Fork of the Feather River. This proposal overall, will probably result in the destruction of more of our local fisheries, our local environment and our local economy than any minor benefit, if any, that will be achieved by the installation of the "Thermal Curtains."

Sincerely

Hugh D. Moncur



Letter-To-Editor

FAVORably
5:20 PM
5/21/04

May 21, 2004

Subject:FERC Project 2105

FEATHER
Publishing, Quincy, CA

The FERC project 2105 is the process for the Federal Re-licensing of the Lake Almanor Basin hydroelectric facilities to PG&E for the next 30-40 years. One of the conditions attached to the process is that the water temperature in the wild trout section of the Feather from Belden Bridge to Cresta be reduced to aid in the restoration of the fishery. This involves drawing massive amounts of cold water from the bottom of Lake Almanor and sending it down river via Butt Valley Reservoir, Belden Forebay and Rock Creek Reservoir. I have spoken with both hydrologists and fish biologists who have told me that because of the distance the water has to flow, and the shallow impoundments it has to flow through, there will be little or no effect on the water temperatures down river. I have also been told that construction of the facilities necessary to carry this proposal out could cost PG&E 50 million dollars. Obviously, PG&E will do whatever is required to retain and renew their license to operate the hydro facilities.

For residents of Plumas County and for users of Lake Almanor and Butt Valley Reservoir the stakes are enormous. If the massive cold water drawdown results in a warming of Lake Almanor in the summer, it is quite possible that not only will the trout and salmon be unable to survive, there could be massive weed bed growth which could make the lake virtually un-useable. In addition, the changes in the water temperature in Butt Valley could alter the ecological balance as to destroy the trophy trout fishery that now exists.

There have already been steps taken to insure survival of the native fish in the river including Catch and Release-artificials only in the section from Belden to Cresta. ~~(The riverkeeper working for PG&E has done an excellent job of building fish ladders and improving spawning areas for the trout.)~~ That, along with the increased water flows ~~will~~ result in a very good future for the native trout in this section. Therefore, to TAKE the chance in killing off Lake Almanor and Butt Valley with a process that seems to have little or no chance of success seems uncalled for, also taking into account the economic devastation that this venture could bring to the residents and business owners in the Almanor Basin.

Hugh D. Moncur
5938 North Arn Road
Greenville, Ca. 95947
284-1467

283-0800 EDITOR-8:30 AM by
will change

QUINCY PAPER (283-3952 FAX)

DENNISON (208-2008) FAX 258-1896

JOE MANTO 284-6884

5/21/04 9:50 AM

PAUL ORRICO 258-3790

ORIGINAL LETTER 9/04 (SWACR)

SENT TO ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES/DFG/

My name is Hugh Moncur and I am currently and have been a voter, taxpayer, homeowner and fulltime resident of Plumas County, California since June of 1999.

I am an avid flyfisherman who has enjoyed the lakes and rivers of Plumas County since the 1950's having had relatives established in Quincy, California, also in Plumas County.

I am writing this letter to express my extreme displeasure with the proposed "Thermal Curtains" to be installed at Lake Almanor and Butt Valley Reservoir.

As a result of these installations, the cold water fishing experience enjoyed by many thousands of persons each year will most certainly curtailed and possibly eliminated resulting in a tremendous loss of dollars to the Lake Almanor Basin. This would ~~most~~ most certainly include the closing of many tourist related businesses and severe drop in real estate values.

This is taking place because a few special interest groups pressured PG&E into signing the Rock Creek-Cresta Agreement under threat of lawsuits which would interrupt the relicensing process now taking place for hydroelectric facilities in the Feather River Canyon.

The "Thermal Curtains" are being proposed in order to lower the temperature in the Rock Creek-Cresta reach by perhaps two degrees at the cost of approximately 54 million dollars to allegedly "save the native trout." From my experience in fishing the Feather River Canyon over many years, the trout population is very marginal at best, and in addition, unless one is akin to a mountain goat, that area is very steep, rocky, and very dangerous even for the most experienced users.

Therefore, I urge you as officials, who are supposed to represent all of the people, and not just a few special interest groups, to put an immediate end to this unproven multi-million dollar experiment which will most certainly spell financial disaster for the Lake Almanor Basin area of Plumas County, California.

Sincerely

Hugh Moncur

JOHN T. DOOLITTLE
4TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

HOUSE REPUBLICAN CONFERENCE
SECRETARY

DISTRICT WHIP

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION

JOINT COMMITTEE ON PRINTING

REPUBLICAN STEERING COMMITTEE



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

2410 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-0504
(202) 225-2511

4230 DOUGLAS BOULEVARD, SUITE 200
GRANITE BAY, CA 95746-5902
(916) 786-5560

<http://www.house.gov/doolittle>

October 3, 2004

Mr. Hugh Moncur
5938 North Arm Road
Greenville, CA 95947

Dear Mr. Moncur:

Thank you for contacting me regarding Pacific Gas and Electric Company's (PG&E) application to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) for a new operating license covering Canyon Dam and the Lake Almanor Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 2105). I appreciate having the benefit of your views on this subject.

Like you, I believe the proposal to install thermal curtains in Lake Almanor and Lutt Lake is misguided and will have serious impacts on the environment as well as residents in the area. As you may know, I recently attended a meeting in Chester and heard firsthand from residents and leaders about the devastating impacts this idea would have on the environment and economy. More troubling is the fact that this proposal stands to ruin the consensus reached by PG&E and local stakeholders in April 2004 regarding a multitude of other important issues governing lake management.

As a member of the House of Representatives, I have consistently championed policies and laws that would encourage common sense land management programs on both public and private lands. Unfortunately, the FERC process is often held hostage by extreme factions and excessive agency demands that have no basis in reality or an appreciation for affected communities. As such, I have actively intervened on other FERC matters in my district and will do the same for my constituents in Plumas County.

At this point it is important to note that the California State Water Resources Control Board has the most leverage of any agency involved in this process. While I will try to influence any recommendations made by FERC and the United States Forest Service, it is paramount that Governor Schwarzenegger as well as the state representatives and their staffs are adequately briefed on this issue. By working together we can exert more influence on these agencies and try to remove these disastrous thermal curtains from consideration.

Mr. Hugh Moncur
October 13, 2004
Page 2

As I mentioned previously, I have been in contact with Plumas County Supervisor Bill Dennison as well as other concerned residents in the area regarding this issue and the effective grass roots campaign currently underway in Chester. I will continue with this communication and will strive to keep you informed of any developments as they occur.

Again, thank you for your interest on this issue. If you have any questions or need any further information please do not hesitate to contact me at (916) 786-5560.

Sincerely,



JOHN T. DOOLITTLE
U.S. Representative

JTD:cp

STATE CAPITOL
P.O. BOX 942849
SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0003
(916) 319-2003
FAX (916) 319-2103

DISTRICT OFFICE
1550 HUMBOLDT ROAD, SUITE 4
CHICO, CA 95926
(530) 895-4217
FAX (530) 895-4219

email:
assemblymember.keene@assembly.ca.gov

Assembly California Legislature



RICK KEENE
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, THIRD DISTRICT

COMMITTEES:
VICE-CHAIR:
BUDGET
MEMBER:
NATURAL RESOURCES
WATER, PARKS AND WILDLIFE
JOINT LEGISLATIVE AUDIT COMMITTEE

October 15, 2004

Mr. Hugh Moncur
5938 North Arm Rd.
Greenville, CA 95947

Dear Hugh,

Thank you for your letter regarding your concerns about the proposed water curtain at Lake Almanor. As you know, PG&E is in the process of renewing its license with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). The relicensing requires a 401 certification from the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) that PG&E meet certain water temperature specifications in the Feather River. I, also, am very concerned about this problem and am taking the steps necessary to support the communities this would affect.

To meet the certification, PG&E researched several possible solutions to reduce temperature in the river. Due to feasibility and cost, PG&E is currently interested in installing a curtain in the Prattville area. PG&E will continue to hold public meetings and informational sessions related to the Lake Almanor issue in order to address concerns. The decision process is scheduled to take at least two more years.

During the past four months, a field representative from my district office has attended every 2105 meeting in Chico and Chester as an observer to gain information about the project. I have met with Plumas County Supervisor Bill Dennison and a group of Plumas County residents who are concerned about this issue. Recently, I had meetings with representatives from PG&E and SWRCB to make it clear that I do not support the thermal curtains and will not allow the communities in my district to be devastated by this project. I requested that the SWRCB alter the current certification process for the 2105 project and will continue to work toward that end. I have arranged additional meetings with Supervisor Dennison, PG&E and SWRCB.

Again, thank you for sharing your concerns about the proposed Lake Almanor water curtain. I am actively taking measures to ensure that Plumas County constituents are represented in the decisions made by these agencies.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rick Keene".

Rick Keene
Assemblyman, 3rd District

STATE CAPITOL
P.O. BOX 942849
SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0002
(916) 319-2002
FAX (916) 319-2102
DISTRICT OFFICES
2865 CHURN CREEK ROAD, SUITE B
REDDING, CA 96002
(530) 223-6300
FAX (530) 223-6737
527 STARR DRIVE, SUITE U
YUBA CITY, CA 95993
(530) 751-8351
FAX (530) 751-8379

Assembly
California Legislature



DOUG LA MALFA
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, SECOND DISTRICT

VICE CHAIRMAN:
NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMITTEES:
ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT, SPORTS,
TOURISM AND INTERNET MEDIA
NATURAL RESOURCES
UTILITIES AND COMMERCE
SELECT COMMITTEES
BIOTECHNOLOGY
CALIFORNIA'S WATER NEEDS
AND CLIMATE CHANGE
JOINT LEGISLATIVE AUDIT COMMITTEE

October 29, 2004

Mr. Hugh Moncur, III
5938 North Arm Road
Greenville, California 95947

Dear Mr. Moncur,

Thank you for your letter concerning the Lake Almanor Thermal Curtailment proposal currently under consideration as part of Pacific Gas & Electric's Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) relicensing agreement. Although Lake Almanor is not in the Second Assembly District which I represent, I have been monitoring this situation and communicating with local officials on this issue. My office has been contacted by numerous people who own property around Lake Almanor, many of which are my constituents in Butte, Colusa and Sutter counties.

After reading your letter, I believe your comments and sentiments agree with mine on this issue. At this point, I would say it is very short-sighted to recommend any sort of plan which takes the deep, cold water from Almanor and dumps it into a creek with minimal effect of questionable benefit. The huge cost of the project, which will be directly borne by ratepayers, is also a point of contention that must be considered. Rest assured that I will work diligently to protect Lake Almanor, as we know it currently, and the recreational opportunities it affords all.

Once again, thank you for your correspondence. If you have any further comments or questions please contact my Redding District Office at (530) 223-6300.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Doug LaMalfa".

DOUG LAMALFA
Assemblyman, Second District



DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

<http://www.dfg.ca.gov>

Sacramento Valley-Central Sierra Region

1701 Nimbus Road, Suite A

Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

(916) 358-2900



November 23, 2004

Mr. Hugh Moncur
5938 North Arm Road
Greenville, CA 95947

Dear Mr. Moncur:

Thank you for contacting the Department of Fish and Game regarding the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (FERC) Licensing process for the Upper North Fork Feather River and your concerns about the study of a thermal curtain device in Lake Almanor. Under the Rock Creek Cresta license, FERC required that Pacific Gas and Electric Company look for alternative ways to reduce water temperature in the Rock Creek and Cresta Reaches of the North Fork Feather River. A Collaborative, consisting of the Department of Fish and Game, other resources agencies, Plumas County, and interested parties, was formed to work with P.G. & E. to seek solutions. The thermal curtain is only one of several alternatives being investigated. At this point, it is a feasibility study only. Data are still being collected and analyzed, so at this time, no decisions have been made. It is important to note that one goal agreed to by all participating parties early in process was that the Collaborative would not recommend any action that would be detrimental to the fishery in Lake Almanor or Butt Valley Reservoir.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact me at (916) 358-2899 or Ms. Kathy Hill, Senior Fishery Biologist at (916) 358-2935.

Sincerely,

Banky E. Curtis
Regional Manager

cc: Mr. L. Ryan Broddrick, Director
Department of Fish and Game
Sacramento, CA 95814

Ms. Kathy Hill
Sacramento Valley-Central Sierra Region
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

Conserving California's Wildlife Since 1870

July 28, 2005

283-0899

TO: Feather River Publishing
Att: Letters to the Editor

FAX 283-3952 JEA 9:25 AM 7/28/05

Subject: North Fork Set Free At Cresta, Rock Creek article 7/27/05 Countywide Sports

Being a full-time, permanent resident of Plumas County, I was quite interested in the above mentioned article.

I found a comment attributed to a Mr. Dave Steindorf of American Whitewater to be very interesting, ie: "Believe it or not, this is what this river used to flow at virtually year-round." According to the article, I believe he was referring to the 1200 CFS release over Kayak weekend.

Even though the river was basically free flowing until the installation of the various power facilities and finishing with the Lake Oroville Dam, the traditional flows in the canyon were like any other free-flowing river which is totally dependent on snowpack, rain and runoff to determine the flows. This essentially means that normally, you would have increased flows after winter storms, and in the spring and early summer due to runoff from snowmelt and very decreased flows throughout the rest of summer, through fall and into winter until rainfall begins.

A statement was made as to the existence of 12 resorts, plus or minus, located in the canyon. The reason these resorts were located in the canyon was because in the "old days" before the damming of the river, the salmon and steelhead migrated up the canyon from the Pacific Ocean on a regular basis. To lead people to believe that we can revive the "old days" through increased flows does a dis-service, since the only way to really attempt to restore the canyon is to remove all of the hydroelectric dams from Oroville to Lake Almanor, which obviously is never going to happen.

Being an individual who is very concerned about the installation of the "Thermal Curtains" at Lake Almanor, Butt Valley Reservoir and Belden Forebay, it becomes obvious that a person has to really look at the various proposals to see who the real players are and what's in this for them.

Mr. Steindorf also stated "Our goal is to make the North Fork Feather River one of the premier, if not the premier whitewater destination in the Western United States." In order for this to happen there has to be massive water releases on a continual basis which will not only make the Whitewater organizations happy but will have the various water hungry districts in Southern California happy to drain our watershed under the guise of protecting the fish and the environment, since the State Water Resources Board is the agency to make the final determination.

All of the residents of Plumas County, and particularly the residents of the Almanor Basin should keep this in mind when Lake Almanor, and other bodies of water draining into the North Fork of the Feather start to disappear before their very eyes, just to satisfy a small, well funded, special interest group, and the water hungry millions in Southern California.

Hugh D. Konda
5938 North Arm Road
Greenville, Ca. 95947
(530) 284-1467

July 21, 2005

California Fly Fisher
PO Box 8535
Truckee, Ca. 96162

Editor:

I am writing regarding the recent letter from Mr. Richard Fording of Chester regarding the installation of "Thermal Curtains" in Lake Almanor, Butt Valley Reservoir and Belden Forebay.

When you look at the parties in favor of this installation, you have to question the real motives of said parties which include Cal-Trout, various groups of well funded white-water rafters and the State Water Resources Control Board.

Initially, PG&E signed the Rock Creek-Cresta agreement because various groups were telling PG&E that there could be possible action taken to delay and disrupt the relicensing of the hydroelectric facilities from Lake Almanor to Lake Oroville.

I have spoken to both hydrologists from PG&E and DFG biologists over the past two years and was informed that these "Curtains" will have little if any effect on the water temperatures from Belden to Cresta because of the numerous shallow impoundments the water has to travel through and the very hot weather we have in the summer in this area.

Even if the water temperature could be lowered enough to vastly improve the fishery in the canyon, this is still an area that is so physically demanding and dangerous to fish, only a limited number of persons would fish from Belden to Cresta. I speak from experience since I have fished the canyon from the late fiftys up to this year.

I don't know exactly what stake Cal-Trout has in supporting this venture ~~of~~ obviously, if this was to go through and the flows are increased, it benefits both rafters usage and the SWRCB because it facilitates increase water deliveries from the Feather River Watershed down to the Delta and eventually to always water hungry Southern California which has the money, the power, and the votes.

If this project is allowed to go through, it will virtually destroy the cold water fisheries at Lake Almanor, Butt Valley Reservoir, Belden Forebay and the West Branch of the North Fork of the Feather River by totally altering the ecological balance that now exists. This means that thousands of persons from all over California who come to Plumas County to fish for Salmonids, not Bass and Pa fish, will be deprived of the opportunity because of the agendas of a few special interest groups and state agencies.

OMITTED FROM REPLY BY CA. FLY FISHER
I have letters from John T. Doolittle, Doug LaMalia, and Rick Keene, our elected representatives as well as Bank E. Curtis, Regional Manager of DFG who have all expressed the view that any project that would be damaging to Lake Almanor/Butt Valley Reservoir should not be recommended. In addition, in doing some investigation, I believe that the initial estimate of 50 million dollars is extremely conservative, and in any case, regardless of the cost, it will ultimately be paid by the ratepayers of P.I.&K.

In conclusion, in discussing this matter with various individuals involved, it looks like a noble cause to "cool the water and save the fish" when it is really all about transferring more of our Northern California water to Southern California under the guise of environmental concern.

[Signature]
Highlander
5938 North Arm Road
Greenville, Ca. 95947
(530) 284-1467

LETTER APPEARING IN CALIF FLY FISHER OCTOBER 2005

I am writing regarding the recent letter from Mr. Richard Fording of Chester regarding the proposed installation of thermal curtains in Lake Almanor and Butt Valley Reservoir that would allow cold lake water to be withdrawn and used to cool river temperatures downstream (see "Letters," July/August '05).

Initially, the Pacific Gas and Electric Company signed the Rock Creek-Cresta agreement, which requires the cooler river temperatures, because various angling and whitewater groups were telling PG&E that legal action might be taken to delay the relicensing of its hydroelectric facilities from Lake Almanor to Lake Oroville.

I have spoken to PG&E hydrologists and California Department of Fish and Game biologists over the past two years and was informed that the thermal curtains will have little, if any, effect on North Fork Feather River's water temperatures from Belden to Cresta because of the numerous shallow impoundments the water has to travel through and the very hot

weather we have in the summer in the area.

Even if the water temperature could be lowered enough to vastly improve the fishery in the canyon, this is still an area that is so physically demanding and dangerous, only a limited number of persons fish from Belden to Cresta. I speak from experience, since I have fished the canyon from the late 1950s up to this year.

I don't know exactly what stake Cal-Trout has in supporting this venture but, obviously, if flows on the North Fork Feather increase as a result, the beneficiaries are the rafters and the SWRCB (the latter benefits through increased water deliveries from the Feather River watershed to Southern California, which has the money, the power, and the votes).

If the thermal curtain project is allowed to go ahead, it will virtually destroy the coldwater fisheries at Lake Almanor, Butt Valley Reservoir, Belden Forebay, and the West Branch of the North Fork Feather by totally altering the ecological balance that now exists. This means that thousands of persons from all over California who come to Plumas County to fish for trout, not bass and panfish, will be deprived of the opportunity because of the agendas of a few special interest groups and state agencies.

Although the cause of "cool the water and save the fish" seems noble, what it is really all about is transferring more of our Northern California water to Southern California under the guise of environmental concern.

HENRY MONEUS

Chico

September 16, 2005

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger
Office of the Governor-State Capitol
Sacramento, Ca. 95814

Subject: Possible Installation of "Thermal Curtain(s)" at Lake Almanor, Butt Valley Reservoir and Belden Forebay as per Rock Creek-Cresta Agreement and FERC 2105 Licensing for the Upper North Fork Feather River for PG&E Hydroelectric

Governor Schwarzenegger

I am writing you as an average, taxpaying resident of Plumas County asking you/your office review the above mentioned process being headed by the SWRCB regarding the possible installation of the above mentioned "Thermal Curtain(s)."

I think that as an elected representative of all the people, and not just a small group of special interests, that you have a duty to use any means at your disposal to bring this "Thermal Curtain" matter to a complete and final halt ASAP.

Any benefits that might be obtained by installation of these "Curtains" is going to be minimal at best and the downside possibilities would be devastating to the Lake Almanor Basin specifically and Plumas County in general.

If these "Thermal Curtains" are installed, based on the science available, Lake Almanor would be virtually destroyed as a cold water fishery and could possible be turned into a warm water, weed filled, algae polluted swamp. In addition, the trophy trout fishery at Butt Valley Reservoir would be severely impacted as well as recreation opportunities at Belden Forebay, the campground facilities at the West Branch of the north Fork of the Feather River and down river all the way to the Oroville Dam.

The fish the persons behind this fiasco are allegedly trying to protect are not wild trout in the true sense, but decendants of fish that were planted in the river by PG&E and the DFG over many years.

The real reason behind this is, as I see it, two fold. First, a small special interest group consisting of Kayak and whitewater rafters want increased flows to pursue their sport and have made no secret about their intent and are using the fish issue as an excuse to get the increased flows. In addition, it looks to me, that the SWRCB may be in favor of this proposal, because increased flows means increased water deliveries to Southern California in the summer. I understand that So. Cal. has serious water issues but to take the water from our Lake Almanor for delivery to So. Cal. under the guise of enviromental concern is, in my opinion, a very serious violation of the public trust.

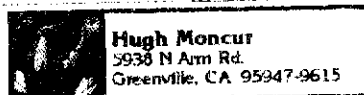
The Lake Almanor Basin and Plumas County has become home to many persons of means, building large homes, starting businesses, all dependent on the health of our local lakes and tourist business, not to mention the all-seasons Dyer Mountain Resort to be built just out of the Lake Almanor Basin.

I have letters from Representative Doolittle, Assemblyman Rick Keene, Assemblyman Doug LaMalfa and DFG Regional Manager Bankey Curtis all on record as opposing the installation of the "Thermal Curtains."

In conclusion, there are a number of alternatives to the "Curtain" installation which will not cost PG&E and ultimately the ratepayers an estimated 50 million to 100 million dollars not counting the enviromental and economic destruction which will be heaped on the Lake Almanor Basin and Plumas County.

Respectfully

Hugh J. Moncur



(530)284-1467