



RIENDS  
OF THE  
RIVER

October 17, 2005

Sharon Stohrer  
State Water Resources Control Board  
1001 I Street, 14<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Sacramento, CA 94814

**RE: Comment on Notice of Preparation for Upper North Fork Feather River  
(FERC #2105) Water Quality Certification EIR**

Friends of the River (FOR) would like to express support for the State Water Resources Control Board's (Water Board) actions to find solutions to restoration of cold water to the North Fork Feather River canyon. FOR is a member of the Rock Creek Cresta (FERC #1962) Ecological Resources Committee that is tasked identifying temperature control measures in the North Fork Feather River. We think this analysis needs to take into account the entire North Fork Feather River system including Lake Almanor.

Friends of the River's mission is to educate, organize, and advocate to protect and restore California's rivers, streams, and watersheds. Founded in 1973 during the fight to save the Stanislaus River from New Melones Dam, FOR has grown to become California's statewide river conservation organization with more than 5,000 members.

Hydroelectric development brought dramatic changes in flow and temperature causing severe decline to the once renown fishery with major losses in recreational use and economic benefits to local communities. Degraded water quality conditions for cold water species in the NF Feather River is directly related to hydropower operations. The social and economic values of the resources of the North Fork Feather River, and Lake Almanor, warrant the greatest of efforts to restore this once great river system. We believe reasonable temperature control alternatives exist which that will accomplish this goal.

FOR supports the work the SWRCB is doing and their adherence to the 20 degree C temperature standard established by the Water Board under the State and Federal law and required as part of the Sacramento River Basin Plan. FOR looks forward to the objective review of temperature alternatives as part of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review of all reasonable temperature control measures for the NF Feather River as part of the FERC Project #2105. We are concerned about the potential effect

temperature control alternatives may have on the Lake Almanor fishery. We understand the CEQA review will assess potential impacts of temperature control measures on the Lake Almanor fishery.

In summary, we support for the State Water Resources Control Boards actions on the North Fork Feather River in Plumas and Butte County. Flow restoration and adherence to the 20 degree Centigrade temperature standard will provide significant benefits in restoration of these socially and economically valuable resources.

Sincerely,

Kelly L. Catlett  
Hydropower Reform Policy Advocate  
Friends of the River

**From:** Kelly Catlett <kelly@friendsoftheriver.org>  
**To:** <sstohrer@waterboards.ca.gov>, <jcanaday@waterboards.ca.gov>  
**Date:** 10/17/05 1:31PM  
**Subject:** NOP Comment letter

Sharon,

Attached please find Friends of the River's comment letter on the Notice of Preparation for Water Cert EIR for 2105. We appreciate the opportunity to comment.

Thank you,  
Kelly

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