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February 16, 2015

Mr. Peter Barnes
State Water Resources Control Board
P.O. Box 2000
Sacramento, CA 95812-2000

STATE WATER RESOURCES
CONTROL BOARD
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DIV OF WATER RIGHTS
SACRAMENTO

Dear Mr. Barnes,

The purpose of this letter is to state my opposition to the Thermal Curtain.

Lake Almanor Basin residences have waited more than ten years to get something from you folks with your draft Environment Impact Report. You have waited until November 26, 2014 to submit your draft for public comment and give us only 90 days to respond. It's obvious you waited until the majority of residence and/or people who utilize the lake are away for the winter. Great timing on your part! In spite of your timing, you found out by the attendance at the February 11 Town Meeting in Chester that there are a large number of folks still in the area that are very concerned with your draft EIR report.

What we can't understand is why the Settlement Agreement reached in 2004 has not been challenged in court. There is far more involved in this process than just lowering water temperature in the Rock Creek/Cresta Area. The whole ecosystem of Lake Almanor and Butt Reservoir is at stake as well as the local economy. Is it that kayak people want more water to kayak in the summer months and the fly fishing purest want better fishing in their favorite spots on the Feather River? At what cost to destroy Lake Almanor and Butt Reservoir in the process? This seems ridiculous. Whatever happened to planting trees along the river to cool the water and why was this not even an option in your draft?

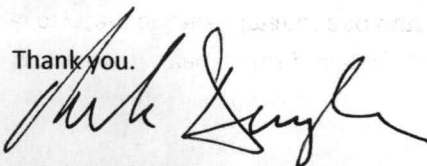
The goal of reducing downstream water temperatures was developed as part of a negotiated settlement reached in 2001 during the re-licensing of Rock Creek/Cresta License # 1962. It required that reasonable attempts be made to meet the proposed water temperature downstream. The Thermal Curtain is by no means reasonable! If you take out the destruction factor of the two lakes, the cost alone would be outrageous to lower the water temperature 40 miles downstream. Not counting the yearly maintenance of these two curtains, which we've heard is as much as 3 million dollars each year, the current cost of the curtains themselves is mind boggling. Several years ago it was 60 million dollars, now we hear it will be more than 100 million.

Lake Almanor has been here since 1914 and the game stopper for the Thermal Curtain in Lake Almanor might just be the Yamani Maidu Indian burial grounds which are underwater.

You need to reevaluate the reasons that the settlement in 2004 was signed in the first place – to provide better trout habitat 40 miles downstream from the lake (which SWRCB did not sign). It is not even certain that installing the two curtains will cool the water some 40 miles downstream. There are several hydro-electric dams which will hold the colder water and allow it to warm in the process. Removing summer water will also be held in these dams and is also questionable at being able to lower water temperature 40 miles away.

I trust you will take my comments into consideration and do away with both options in your draft Environmental Impact Report.

Thank you.



Rich Dengler