



The Eagle's Nest

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STATE WATER RESOURCES
CONTROL BOARD
2015 FEB -9 AM 10:51
DIV OF WATER RIGHTS
SACRAMENTO

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February 5, 2015

Re: The proposed testing and eventual installation of Thermal Curtains at Lake Almanor.

Peter Barns
California State Water Resources Control Board

My family has vacationed at beautiful Lake Almanor for over 40 years. Since our retirement, twelve years ago my wife and I have been summertime residents and I fish the lake five or six days every week. I am currently a licensed and bonded fishing guide specializing in trolling for trout and salmon. About five years ago we attended a Sierra Institute all day fieldtrip which featured five or six very knowledgeable "experts" who explained the history and management of the Lake Almanor watershed. This tour included a very detailed overview and history of the proposed Thermal Curtains.

Throughout this Thermal Curtain debate it has been stressed that PG&E must evaluate and take whatever *reasonable* action is necessary to lower the downstream water temperature to an arbitrated level (<68 degrees F) which (I think) does not even equate to the original water temperatures prior to construction of the dam **101 years ago**. I believe PG&E has far exceeded that mandate and have done so in a responsible manner.

After trying to digest as much of the historical and especially the most recent report (2006 NFFR Special Testing Data Report) which entailed understanding many acronyms and abbreviated terms it is my belief that this whole project suffers from a really bad case of analysis paralysis. Page 70 of the report shows the lake temperatures from the surface, mid-depth and bottom. Lake Almanor is shaped like a common household funnel. Volume wise, a very miniscule amount of cold water is available near the bottom. Simple logic tells me, that as soon as that cold water is removed, the whole proposed experiment and perhaps the ecosystem as we know it will collapse. This has to be especially true during the hot summer months when the cold water will not be replenished until the water shed experiences a very cold winter with a significant snow pack. With the prospects of Global Warming becoming a reality, cold water may not be available again for a very long time.

Every resource that I know of indicates that trout and salmon need 11 to 12 degree Celsius (~53F) water temperature to flourish. If the lake water temperature is elevated for an extended period of time, this once

pristine cold water impoundment will only support carp, catfish and bass.

As to the effect on frogs, fishes and other critters which are down-stream. I truly believe that as our human race has evolved there have been countless examples of "*unintended consequences*" which sometimes are a by-product of well founded and necessary technological advancements. We all strive to be "Good Sheppard's of the Earth", but we must exercise some basic common sense if our society is to continue to grow and prosper. It is my opinion that frogs and fishes are not as significant as humans in the overall scheme of things.

As a supervisor and manager within the Aerospace Manufacturing Industry I very often saw evidence that very good people working on a special project assignment never really wanted to see the project get completed for fear of losing their employment. I can easily see this happening on both sides of the Thermal Curtain equation. It is the multitudes of clear thinking individuals who have watched this whole illogical process play out in disbelief who really wants to see this issue just end. This very concerned group is comprised of PG&E share holders, rate payers and all of us tax payers. I guess we also need to include all the small business owners located within Plumas, Lassen and Tehama Counties and of course us fishermen.

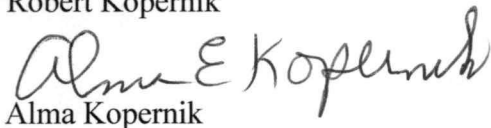
One other thought that I have is that maybe it has nothing to do with frogs and fishes, but more to do with making it so difficult to generate electrical power with dams and hydroelectric plants that the incurred expense to PG&E and us taxpayers will cause all of us to more willingly embrace the hugely expensive and unreliable "Green Power" alternatives.

Needless to say but, I am totally against the currently proposed experiment(s) and I truly believe that the entire project of trying to lower the down-stream water temperature should be terminated once and for all! I ask all decision makers and those who control the monetary budgets to stop funding this madness.

Sincerely,



Robert Kopernik



Alma Kopernik

c.

Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator

Doug Lamalfa
United States Congressman

Dinyar B. Mistry
PG&E Chief Financial Officer

Sharon Thrall
Plumas County Supervisor District 3

Rich Dengler
Almanor Fishing Association