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February 12, 2015

STATE WATER RESOURCES
CONTROL BOARD
2015 FEB 17 PM 12:23
DIV OF WATER RIGHTS
SACRAMENTO

Dear Mr. Barnes:

I was in attendance of the public meeting for comment on the Upper North Fork Feather River Hydroelectric Project, FERC Project 2105 last night. Thank you and your staff for taking the time to receive public comment, for the record, on the Draft EIR. I think it was quite obvious to you that the local community is strongly opposed to further releasing cold water from Lake Almanor. I hope that you will convey the opposed opinions of our local/state elected officials and community members clearly to Chair Marcus, regarding any type of cold water extraction from Lake Almanor.

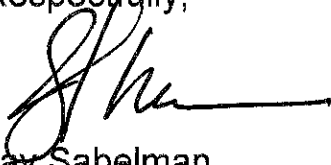
I disagree with many of the impacts in the Draft EIR. Specifically the impacts to Water Quality, Recreation, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, Fisheries, Cultural Resources and Vegetation, Wildlife and Sensitive Biological Resources. More importantly, I do not feel that State Water Board's Staff Recommendations take into account the fiscal and economic ramifications to the Lake Almanor Basin upon further cold water extraction.

I respectfully ask the State Water Board Staff to explain how their recommendations comply with one of the purposes of CEQA. "Prevent or minimize damage to the environment through development of project alternatives, mitigation measures, and mitigation monitoring." Taking further cold water from Lake Almanor WILL destroy the present ecosystem. That is not an acceptable mitigation measure required for re-licensing a project.

I also ask that further discussion begins to explore an alternative for supplying cold water to the Feather River, such as PG&E required well drilling along the Feather River to provide seasonal cold water flows. This is far less costly than the Staff Recommendations. Lastly, how will PG&E comply with the Settlement Agreement for required lake levels, while also complying with the Staff's Recommendations for further water releases?

I own and operate a local real estate brokerage as well as a family owned restaurant on the peninsula of Lake Almanor. The Staff's Recommendations, if passed by the BOD's for the State Water Control Resources Board would devastate the entire community within the Lake Almanor Basin. Please make my opinion known to the Board.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Sabelman', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Jay Sabelman
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