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FERC  
2105

Mr. Peter Barnes, Engineering Geologist  
State Water Board Resource Control Board, Division of Water Rights  
Water Quality Certification Program  
P.O. Box 2000  
Sacramento, CA 95812-2000

STATE WATER RESOURCES  
CONTROL BOARD

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DIV OF WATER RIGHTS  
SACRAMENTO

[Peter.Barnes@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Peter.Barnes@waterboards.ca.gov)

RE: Draft EIR, PG&E Certification UNFFR Project NO 2105

Dear Mr. Barnes,

I thank you for providing me the opportunity to provide feedback on the above mentioned project. My concern is that Alternatives 1 and 2 will have a devastating negative impact on my community, the surrounding communities, the local economy, and the environment.

My main issue with the Draft EIR is that I find very little in the report regarding the impacts this project, and the proposed Alternatives, will have on the quality of my life. I strongly disagree with the statement that increasing the water temperatures of Lake Almanor will not have a "substantial impact". I live here and my personal experience has been contrary to your findings. With several years of drought I have seen firsthand the negative effects that an increase in water temperature has on the lake. We are experiencing more algae than in the past, which in turn reduces the clarity of the lake. I fear that any activity that further reduces cold water in the lake will greatly reduce the cold water fisheries that have made Lake Almanor one of the best fishing destinations in the State of California. My observations are supported by data in the final draft of the Lake Almanor Water Quality Report, 2015.

My main question is: Was the temperature and the flows in the stream, cooler and higher flows, prior to the Lake Almanor Dam construction. I am quite certain the answer is no. The fish seemed to survive prior to the Dam. I am certain that in drought conditions such as the one that we are currently in, the streams below the lake would be much warmer and very little flow in late summer. Lake Almanor already provides plenty of cold water for the streams and we do not need to disregard the health of Lake Almanor's ecosystem in order to provide some new cold water bench mark for our streams below the Lake.

Increased water temperatures, increased algae, and reduced fisheries will have a devastating negative impact on the local economy, which is dependent upon tourism and already suffering. When I consider all of the negative impacts this project will have on the local economy and environment, I wonder what the impact will be on my quality of life and property value. Will more local businesses close? Will I lose needed services, such as our hospital, as a result of a worsening local economy? Will we lose the one thing that has brought us all here – the enjoyment of Lake Almanor?

In conclusion, I am OPPOSED to Alternatives 1 & 2, as described in the Draft EIR, and I believe that pursuing these Alternatives is unreasonable and reckless. I urge the State

Water Board to only consider the PG&E project, as submitted and approved in the Settlement Agreement of April 22, 2004, without the additional release of cold water from Lake Almanor.

Sincerely, 

Matthew J. Southam  
2789 Durham Dayton HWY  
Chico, Ca. 95928

Lake Almanor Address:  
958 Peninsula Drive  
Lake Almanor, CA.