

February 4, 2015

Wilson's Camp Prattville Resort
2932 Almanor Drive West
Canyon Dam, CA 95923

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

Dear Mr. Barnes:

The purpose of this letter is to express our absolute opposition to the Water Board staff recommendation in the draft Environmental Impact Report (Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Project 2105 – Upper North Fork Feather River Hydroelectric Project). As the owners of a small, family operated resort located on the west shore of Lake Almanor (directly in Prattville by the intake tower), we can unequivocally state that the Thermal Curtain will force our business to close. We find it extremely difficult to imagine that our 87-year old business, which has survived the Great Depression, World War II, Vietnam, and countless other economic tragedies, could actually see its' demise through something as trivial as an experimental model of a Thermal Curtain. A proposed project which would take 50% of the cold water from Lake Almanor for a potentially unverifiable and unaccountable one degree temperature drop at Rock Creek/Cresta at a cost of \$51 Million initial and unknown millions in maintenance cost to be funded solely by taxpayers.

Our question is, who is accountable for the loss of our income when 90% of our patrons (25,000/year) come to our resort primarily for large rainbow trout fishing? There is no doubt that the entire cold water species and habitat, not to mention other birds and mammals who feed on them, will be immensely impacted by the proposed project, if not extinct. It is important to note that Lake Almanor temperatures noted in the EIR report are 15 years old, as are the lake depth levels. At its current level, the lake is only about 25 feet deep which means that taking 50% of the lake's cold water equates to taking 100% of the cold water (based on stratification layers). The entire food web of trout, bass, salmon, catfish, perch, pond smelt, mayflies, chironomids, midges, crayfish, and so on will be thrown completely out of sync. The real uniqueness of the Lake Almanor fishery is the fact that the fish grow so large in the cold water. It is this uniqueness (large trophy fish) that has led people to visit our resort and Lake Almanor in general. There will be no going back when the projected temperature drop does not occur. The lake will die off as one of the best stillwater trophy fisheries in the United States.

Visually, the Thermal Curtain will be an eye sore as it will extend 14 acres into the lake with approximately 250 yards from our property. Many of our guest from around the world come and stay with us for this unobstructed view of Lake Almanor and Mount Lassen. When first generation, Frank Wilson, had the opportunity to purchase land on the West Shore, he specifically chose Prattville for its unmatched beauty and potential attractiveness to tourists and guests. He could have purchased almost

anywhere around the lake, yet he chose Prattville, where our resort is still located 87 years later. The visual impacts of the Thermal Curtain also extend far beyond the 14 acres of its size and environmental destruction, as it would also financially impact, if not destroy, our small business with tourists and guests driven away due to its unsightliness.

The financial impacts will be catastrophic, not only to our small family business (which will not make it to our three sons, Kenneth C. Wilson, Cody T. Wilson, and Calvin M. Wilson – the fifth generation), but also to the entire county in the form of employment, payroll taxes, occupancy taxes, sales tax, etc. Tourists will seek other places to fish and recreate and ultimately, our business and many others around the lake will cease to exist. We find it hard to believe that the Water Board can recommend the degradation of Lake Almanor, which is visited by several hundred thousands of people each year as compared to the potential increase in cold water species in a location that is difficult to access and visited by probably less than a few hundred people each year. This simply does not make good sense any way it is looked at. We plead you to consider more carefully other less disruptive options to the natural environment, such as habitat restoration or Freon cooling stations downstream, as opposed to the harsh realities of an experimental idea with zero accountability. The Thermal Curtain does indeed represent “significant impact” and must be addressed as such. Without a proper cost estimate and cost-benefit analysis with updated figures, the Water Board’s decision seems random, unjustified, and heartless.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, written in a cursive style, that reads "Kenneth A. Wilson Jr. on behalf of the following".

Carol Wilson Franchetti (Owner)

Kenneth A. Wilson Jr. and Debbie Wilson (Resort operators)

Kenneth C. Wilson

Cody Wilson

Calvin Wilson

Kenneth A. Wilson Sr. and Karen Wilson