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**FEDERAL ENERGY
REGULATORY COMMISSION**

**Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, NE
Washington, DC 20426**

Attn: FERC Project 2105

I would appreciate it if you could take a few minutes out of your busy schedule to read this letter and consider helping all of us save, Lake Almanor and Butt Lake in Plumas County.

The Feather River water generally flows fast and cold in the spring, but it slows and warms by mid summer. That's probably how it has been for tens of thousands of years.

When it came time a few years back for PG&E to re-license its hydroelectric facilities in the Rock Creek – Cresta reach of the river, something interesting happened. Somebody decided that it would be nice to improve the trout habitat in that portion of the river by lowering the summertime water temperature there so that it didn't exceed 20 degrees Celsius (68 degrees Fahrenheit). PG&E agreed, and the FERC Project Number 1962 settlement that resulted carries such a requirement.

We are all sure that the trout in the lower stretch of the river would truly appreciate colder water in July and August. But apparently the euphoria of settling the re-licensing agreement caused the folks involved to overlook a small question, as in how are we going to do that?

Later came FERC Project Number 2105, which is aimed at re-licensing PG&E 's facilities on the upper reach of the river. In an inspired moment, PG&E decided to solve its dilemma about the temperature of the lower portion of the river by quietly placing the burden on the upper portion of the river. After all, Plumas County does not have many voters to complain about the issue, and we are all a long distance from the seat of political power, (we sure would appreciate your help).

Low and behold along came the thermal curtain. First for Lake Almanor, and more recently for Butt Lake as well. PG& E want's to suck up the cold water at the bottom of Lake Almanor, quickly pass it through Butt Lake and send it downstream to cool the waters down by Rock Creek and Cresta.

Along with all of this there will be some underwater dredging and where will all this muck go? (hopefully, not on the Lakes beautiful shores). Butt Lake will no longer be a trophy trout site and we'll be eliminating about half of the cold water fishery in Almanor. Not to mention the rise in

the temperature, many species of fish will not survive, therefore disturbing the natural food cycle of the lake.

Dissolved oxygen levels go down fish can't breath! and die. If too many fish die the PH level will change and fish can only survive (most of them) within the narrow range of 7-8.

With less circulation of the H₂O, the water's turbidity level will also rise, imagine swimming in water that resembles chocolate milk, try breathing it too!

Lowering the water depth will also greatly contribute to temperature rising with less area for fish to roam, the food supply will go down, but population of the fish stays the same until they die of starvation, (contributing to more decomposing and changing of the water).


The cost to put up the thermal curtain could reach \$40 million dollars, plus and undisclosed annual maintenance cost. Where will all this money come from?

Remember the cold waters from Lake Almanor that started down the hill, well it gets mixed with a lot of warmer water from other sources before it gets to Rock Creek. So, all of this expensive and environmentally damaging activity is expected to result in about one (1) degree Celsius reduction in summertime water temperature in Rock Creek – Cresta reach of the river.

The way we all look at it, it's truly a shame to disturb what Mother Nature has given to all of us with beautiful Lake Almanor and our trophy trout Butt Lake.

I am sure, speaking for all of us, surrounding the Lake including neighboring cities and seasonal families want to keep our beautiful Lakes clear for the fish habitat and boating recreation as we have always enjoyed it. If the boating and fishing is not there for the many people using the Lakes each year the local business will suffer.

Respectfully Yours,


The Ouellette Family
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