

ORIGINAL

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OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY

800 Whispering Winds Lane
Chico, CA 95928
November 19, 2004

State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I Street, 14th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

FEDERAL ENERGY
REGULATORY COMMISSION

P-2105-089

Dear Sir/Madam,

I understand the California State Water Resources Control Board is the primary proponent of Pacific Gas and Electric Company's tentative plan to install a cold water curtain in Lake Almanor. This is apparently an effort to cool the summer water temperature in the Rock Creek-Cresta Reservoir area of the North Fork Feather River.

While I am not adverse to making operating modifications or installations to reduce temperatures in the lower stretches of the river, I think there are several important issues that must be considered:

1. What were summer temperatures in the Rock Creek-Cresta area before any water projects were constructed? Were temperatures lower in the late 1800's than they are now? It seems reasonable to believe that pre-project water temperatures may have actually been HIGHER because the tunnels and penstocks maintain cooler temperatures than if the water came crashing down the canyon against hot rocks and solar exposure, and the volume of water now in the canyon is greater than pre-project (since much of the water comes from storage). A few reports of trophy fishing in the 1800's surely is not indicative of lower water temperature; fishing pressure and other changes have occurred in the many intervening years that may have resulted in fewer fish.
2. What will the attempt to lower water temperatures downstream do to Lake Almanor? Surely, Lake Almanor itself is one of the true gems in the Cascade-Sierra Nevada ranges. Removing cooler water from Lake Almanor will obviously increase the lake's water temperature, with attendant aquatic growth problems. Even a fraction of a degree in temperature will have unknown and likely adverse effects. From an environmental standpoint, how can a cold water curtain even be given consideration?
3. Unfortunately, life is always constrained by economic considerations. Investing millions of dollars in water curtains in order to achieve a small temperature benefit in a marginal fishing area is almost beyond comprehension. There must be numerous alternatives that can produce a few trophy fish at a reasonable cost to electric ratepayers. Cold water curtains is surely NOT one of them.

I would appreciate your response to this letter, since I am very concerned about beautiful Lake Almanor. Each one of these three items deserves being addressed. I hope reason will prevail in your decisions.

Sincerely Yours,

WILLIAM D. PARLAND



CC: FERC, USFS, CDF&G