

ORIGINAL

October 15, 2005

California State Water Resources Control Board
Ms Tam M. Doduc, Chair
P.O. Box 2000
Sacramento, CA 95812-2000

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SECRETARY
2005 OCT 24 P 4:40
FEDERAL ENERGY
REGULATORY COMMISSION

Ref: North Fork, Feather River (FERC 2105) CEQA Scoping

Dear Chairman Daduc,

As a homeowner and full time resident of Lake Almanor I am very concerned about the never ending process that SWRCB is taking before granting a Water Quality Certificate to PG & E.

I will not write about the "Thermal Curtains" (TC's) option because SWRCB has been flooded with information on this proposal and it is all extremely negative to the health of Lake Almanor, Butt Valley Reservoir, the rate payers, Maidu sacred sites, and for no real benefit down stream. For all of these facts any reasonable person would conclude that the TC's option should be discarded for good.

My concern is that the option to reduce flows at Caribou 2 power house and increasing the flows at Canyon Dam is still being considered. This plan would still reduce the cold water pool at Lake Almanor and have most of the negative environmental impacts as the TC's option.

The initial cost would be less than the \$50 + million of the TC's but releases from Canyon Dam would bypass the powerhouses at Butt Lake, Caribou 1 & 2 and at Beldon. This will increase the cost of electricity to all PG & E customers by many millions of dollars every year and in the long run be even more expensive than the TC's. This lost hydropower is renewable and non polluting. PG & E has just announced that we can expect natural gas rate increases of seventy % this fall. The lost electrical generation will have to be replaced by burning more natural gas in their other power plants.

At a time when California and the entire nation are in a severe energy crisis which will be around for a long time, it is insane to even consider this option. Would the SWRCB like to see articles in the Bee and statewide that while the citizens are being asked to sacrifice on power usage the SWRCB is wasting huge amounts of energy by bypassing existing hydro power plants?

Some other points basic to this entire project:

- A. The University of Iowa who did the modeling to see if the TC's could draw cold water at Prattville stated - the information from Whiskeytown and Shasta Lakes TC's was not transferable to Lake Almanor because Almanor is a shallow lake and the others are deep lakes.

B. There is no verifiable proof that the Rock Creek/Cresta reaches of the NFFR ever were colder in July than they are now. When you look at the free flowing "Wild and Scenic" Middle Fork FR whose temperatures exceed 23C in July, the 20 degree C goal for the NFFR doesn't hold up.

Sincerely,



Ed Wing
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Chester, CA 96020

Enclosure: Letter to Feather Publishing

Cc: Sharon Stohrer
North State Resources, Inc.
Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger
FERC ✓
State Senators Aarnested, Cox
State Assemblymen Keene, LaMalfa, Leslie

Guidelines for Letters

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Who supports the thermal curtain?

A standing room only crowd of some 400 people came to the State Water Resources Control Board's BIR scoping meeting in Chester last Tuesday.

Bill Doreham, Rick Keene, Doug LaMalfa, Dave Cox, Sam Amestad, Wally Heger and John Doolittle or their representatives all spoke out forcefully against degrading Lake Almanac and Bull Valley State Park by reducing their cold water flow.

The Mountain Man

spoke against desecrating their burial sites by dredging at Prattville. Approximately 35 other speakers, including a Department of Fish and Game employee, all spoke against the thermal curtain. No one spoke in favor of it!

Only one person, who represented whitewater rafting, didn't directly state his opposition. It is also interesting that after the thermal water release last year, PG&E estimated that the cost to ratepayers was about \$2,000 per foot!

We know that Cal Trout originally supported the plan, but now they say they will not support any plan that will harm the Almanac/Bull trout fisheries. Who then? California Hydropower Reform, Sierra Club, etc? These folks never saw a dam they didn't want to breach or bypass, could be? It seems that all supporters are hiding in a closet somewhere.

This pretty much leaves the SWRCB. Their representative at a BIR meeting earlier this year did refer to the thousand protest letters they received as "spams".

The thermal curtain is another two years. The governor just fired the entire state flood board. Perhaps it is time he

waited one more year before this to see if any answers have been known for over a year.

Ed Wing
Chester