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SECRETARY OF THE
COMMISSION

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FEDERAL ENERGY
REGULATORY COMMISSION

24 May 2021

RE: Project 2105

Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, N.E. Room 1A
Washington, D.C. 20428

I have deep concerns that **Project 2105** will have a devastating negative impact on my community, the surrounding communities, the local economy, and the environment.

My main issue with the **Project 2105** is that there is little in the report regarding the impacts of this project and what the proposed alternatives will be. 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. After 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. Any activity that further reduces cold water in the lake will also 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, 2020. [https://sierrainstitute.us/new/wp-content ... rt2020.pdf](https://sierrainstitute.us/new/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Lake-Almanor-Water-Quality-Report-2020.pdf)

Increased water temperatures, increased algae, and reduced fisheries will have a devastating impact on local wildlife, local economy, and local families, which are ALL dependent upon the lake. Further damage to the lake will also exasperate declining tourism, which is already suffering. After considering all of the negative impacts this project will have, will it also affect my community by losing 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 and preservation of Lake Almanor?

The process of the re-licensing of Lake Almanor has been an exceptionally long and unnecessarily drawn out one.

When the process started there was collaborative group of stakeholders that worked diligently for the benefit of the license, the people and the lake. Through their tireless efforts, an agreement was struck. Until special interest within the State Water Resources Control Board, threw the collaboration into chaos by adding the 3-degree Celsius temperature change 9 miles downstream at the last minute.

In the long days that the 2105 group met, that included the State Water Resources Control Board, never was the Thermal Curtain, or cold water only discussed. The entire 2105 group failed to reach a successful conclusion, due to this one last minute, unreasonable change.

Here we are almost 20 years later, still without the 2105 license. The promises and good faith negotiations that were in the settlement agreement for the 2105 should be upheld without change. That collaboration monitored the lake quality, the lake level, the flows, the increase in community facilities, and much more. For the State Water Resources Control Board to change a single intent of the collaborative 2105 agreement is wrong and should not be considered by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

The alternative recommended clearly states, no adverse effect to the community. Clearly, the science shows that increasing the flows and making the flows only the coldest of water, will gravely adversely affect our lake, our environment and our community.

Thank you for considering the people of Lake Almanor, the fishery of Lake Almanor, the livelihood of our community and doing what is right, by supporting the collaborative settlement agreement for the 2105 license without the unreasonable and unnecessary change that was added by the State Water Resources Control Board.

In conclusion, I am OPPOSED to Alternatives one & two of SWRCB's 2014 draft, and now Alternative three of SWRCB's 2020 draft. All three of these alternatives are unreasonable and reckless. I strongly 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,



D. Andrew Cox

Document Content(s)

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