

**ORIGINAL**  
Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary  
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission  
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Washington, D.C 20426

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SECRETARY OF THE  
COMMISSION

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Wednesday, March 9, 2022

FEDERAL ENERGY  
REGULATORY COMMISSION

RE: Re-licensing Lake Almanor and release of cold water (PROJECT 2105):

Dear FERC Commissioners:

For seventy plus years my family has been summer camping at Lake Almanor, Plumas County, California. In 2008, we retired and became permanent residents of Lake Almanor West, a beautiful community established in 1972, of over 600 homesites, a golf course, Lake Front Recreation area, a boat launch ramp, tennis courts, and a golf course. We moved here from Lake Tahoe so we could continue to enjoy the swimmer friendly lake, water ski accessible, leisure party boat barbeques, accessible beaches, bike riding, fishing, etc.

Now all of the above attractions are in jeopardy due to the inexplicable process of a need to re-license our beautiful lake. In fact, over 20 years of collaborative groups working to meet needs of all parties involved and accomplish a simple license, have failed!!!!

First, on April 22, 2004 a Settlement Agreement was filed on behalf of the Project 2105 Licensing Group addressing reservoir lake levels, stream flows below project dams, water quality monitoring, wildlife habitat enhancement, and recreation enhancements. At the last minute, the State Water Resources Control Board who was a part of the above deliberations, wanted to add 3-degree Celsius temperature change 9 miles downstream at the last minute. Special interest groups claimed the downstream fisheries needed cooler waters to survive. The above groups had NOT spent time discussing thermal curtain and cold water leaving Lake Almanor nor how that would affect Lake Almanor fisheries.

Does introducing colder water from Lake Almanor actually solve the problem nine miles downstream???

Please consider the following information based on studies by University of California Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources Conservation Service, ANA Publication 8112, FWOP Ref. Sheet 10.3 by Lisa Thomson, UC Davis, Andromous and Inland Fishery Specialist. (Andromous fish are those that return from saltwater to fresh water to spawn)

**To paraphrase and summarize their conclusions:**

In the fisheries habitat the following variables contribute to the health of the habitat—climate, stream flow, clean water, barriers, the condition of the habitat/plants along the river's edge, etc. The building of dams along the existing river causes the plants and trees along the river's edge to deteriorate or disappear. They are the biggest contributors to keeping the water shaded and the temperature cool for spawning fish. It was suggested in 2004 that based on those studies that the Fish and Wildlife at the state level begin reintroducing trees and plants, replacing rocks, etc., along the river edges to provide the shade and habitat needed to decrease the temperature of the river downstream. Even environmentalist groups wanted to help. But the licensing process to get state approval to start those projects, fell through. The money had already been set aside to accomplish the replanting of the river edges!!!!

Scientists consulted by many groups here at Lake Almanor and by the state determined that our shallow lake (150 feet on the Eastern side and only 20-40 feet on our Western side) would be destroyed if a Thermal Curtain was installed to take away only the bottom cold water. The Lake fisheries need that cold water to spawn and survive during the summer. Also, by the time it got nine miles downstream it would only contribute 1-2 degrees of cold water.

Years of drought and the horrendous Dixie Fire that created 50 days of smoke-filled skies, along with fire retardants into our lake, have also put our lake at risk. We already are getting dangerous Algae blooms during hot summer months!

So, we have waited over 20 years to get the licensing completed.

Studies have shown that the best solution to decreasing the water temperature issue downstream is to reintroduce native plants, trees and rocks to the river edges.

The economy of Lake Almanor is based on a viable, healthy lake for swimming, watersports and fishing.

Once our licensing is complete, we can finally move forward with plans to improve our lake access, continue replenishing the fish in the lake through raising freshwater fish by volunteers and our high school students, improve our campgrounds and swimming beaches, and other projects started by PG&E and continued by our Feather River Land Trust who have worked so hard to protect our entire watershed with preserves all around our Lake and Northern California.

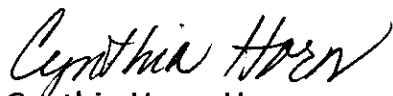
**To conclude, we ask you do the following:**

Honor and uphold the April 22, 2004 Settlement Agreement Filed on behalf of the Project 2105 Licensing Group addressing reservoir lake level, stream flows below project dams, water quality monitoring, wildlife habitat enhancement, and recreation enhancements.

Protect the fisheries and health of Lake Almanor by NOT allowing any additional releases of cold water from Lake Almanor beyond that agreed to in the 2004 Settlement Agreement. Especially noting that the solution lies in replanting the native plants along the river's edges to shade the fishery habitats downstream, NOT introducing 1-2 degrees of coldwater releases from Lake Almanor

Acknowledge the importance of good water quality in Lake Almanor for the health of OUR fisheries is very critical to our economy, our businesses and the quality of life for the families in our community.

Thank you for taking the time to consider these issues, and expediting the licensing of Lake Almanor according to the FERC Project 2105 based on the April 22, 2004 Settlement. Thereby saving Lake Almanor and improving quality of the water resources in our watershed.



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