

ORIGINAL

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FEDERAL ENERGY
REGULATORY COMMISSION

April 14, 2022

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

RE: FERC Project 2105, Upper North Fork Feather River Project

Dear Commissioners,

In 2000, we were lucky enough to be able to purchase a property on Lake Almanor in Plumas County; in 2008, we retired to our home here fulltime. Ours is a beautiful lake and is home to a wide variety of wildlife - we are able to watch gorgeous birds, foxes, bobcats, deer, even the occasional mountain lion or bear from our deck; the fish in our lake are healthy and strong even though the lake is relatively shallow. The idea of diverting cold water from the depths of our lake via a thermal curtain to *potentially* improve fishing downstream is a huge concern for all of us.

We have listened to the discussions of installing a thermal curtain for years now, and we have been concerned. With a warming climate and recent winters with lighter than average snowfall, the lake doesn't appear to be "flushing" itself as well as it has been able to in the past. As a result, algae blooms the last couple of years, particularly on the west-facing peninsula shoreline, have severely impacted our ability to use the lake later in the season. It not only affects our recreational use, but it also jeopardizes our wildlife. Seeing the impact of this climate change has heightened our concerns about any effort that might further warm the lake.

Last summer, the Dixie fire surrounded our beautiful area, and the economic toll is yet to be fully recognized. Given the tremendous amount of retardant used in fighting the fire, a fire that grew to 963,309 acres and basically encircled Lake Almanor, our fear is that the 'fertilizing' component of the retardant will further exacerbate the algae growth. The economic consequences of this devastating fire

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have been huge for our surrounding communities (those that actually survived the fire!), and it will take years for our vistas/forests/businesses to recover. If the lake itself were to be damaged by the effects of a thermal curtain, the area will never recover; that is a given. The idea that a theoretical attempt at improving water temperatures downstream that could devastate our fishery and the associated wildlife that is dependent on the lake based on the speculation that it might help cool the Feather River downstream just doesn't make economic or environmental sense!

As Hippocrates said, "first, do no harm". The potential harm done by a thermal curtain is just too great a risk to take, financially for our community and ecologically for our wildlife and our generations to come. Yes, we enjoy being able to recreate on our beautiful lake, but our pleasure isn't the only issue at stake. Please reject the proposal.

Thank you for your consideration,

Best regards,



Mark A. Johnson



Paula L. Johnson

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