

18294
Sonoma Highway
Sonoma
CA 95476

ORIGINAL

TEL 707 996 8448
FAX 707 996 8542

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FEDERAL ENERGY
REGULATORY COMMISSION

May 17, 2022

Kimberly D. Bose
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street N.E. Room 1 A
Washington, D. C. 20426

Re: Project 2105 - California State Water Resources Control Board Water Quality Certification for Upper Feather River, Plumas County, California

Dear Ms. Bose:

Our family has owned property on Lake Almanor, Plumas County, California, since 1951. During this time, we have had ample opportunity to observe the environmental conditions at Lake Almanor and throughout the North Fork of the Feather River Basin. Recently, much of the Upper Feather River tributary area was devastated by the near million-acre Dixie Fire, including the reaches of the Feather River below Canyon Dam. The environmental, economic, watershed and water quality damage from the Dixie wildfire is incalculable. It will take years to assess the impact of this event on Lake Almanor's water quality, temperature and availability.

As a long time, seasonal resident, environmentalist and angler, I am concerned that Conditions 1(B) and 6, included in the California State Water Resources Control Board's Section 401 Water Quality Certification application will create unmitigated environmental impacts on Lake Almanor, the local community and the Lake Almanor fishery.

Releasing cold water from Lake Almanor is an untested ecological experiment being proposed for the environmentally sensitive Lake Almanor Basin. Sterling cold water is key to the Lake Almanor community's livelihood, the quality of its fishery and recreational opportunities for thousands of California residents. The impact of the proposal to allow supplemental cold-water withdrawals from Lake Almanor during the summer months to potentially reduce water temperatures in the North Fork of the Feather River through the use of Thermal Curtains or other means - especially on the heels of a million-acre fire is unknown and should not be allowed.

The proposed release of cold water from Lake Almanor may not work anyway. Considering virtually 100% of the forest cover has been burned along the Belden Reach of the North Fork of the Feather River below the dam, heat gain on the canyon rock walls through which the river flows will be tremendous in those areas. It is unlikely releasing cold water from Lake Almanor through the now unshaded, to be superheated canyon rock walls will even achieve its stated objectives. The proposed cold-water release to reduce downstream water temperatures from Lake Almanor is a long shot that should not take place.

RosDrulisCusenberry

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The impacts of global warming are obvious in our area including larger and more devastating forest fires, forest cover die off by bug kills, and increased levels of erosion and sedimentation due to reduced forest cover. These effects will likely increase Lake Almanor's water temperature even before the proposed cold-water drain. The continued existence of drought is the new normal which will unfortunately alter the water temperature and quality at Lake Almanor and would be exacerbated by the proposed release of cold water from the lake.

Based on the above, I urge the FERC not to approve Conditions 1(B) and 6 of this certification. Please maintain the original settlement agreement of 2004, with no additional cold-water releases allowed from Lake Almanor, CA.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael B. Ross". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "M" and a long, sweeping underline.

Michael B. Ross, AIA, NCARB

Principal

RossDrulisCusenbery, Architecture Inc.

Document Content(s)

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