

Michael P Hagan, Chester, CA.
Kimberly D. Bose
Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20426

March 9, 2022

RE: Re-licensing Lake Almanor & Proposed Cold Water Release (Project 2105)

Dear FERC Commissioners:

The re-licensing of Lake Almanor, known as Project 2105, has been ongoing since October 2002 when a group of stakeholders and experts convened to negotiate the terms of the license. The license expired in 2004 due to a State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) last minute addition to the agreement attempting to lower the downstream temperature of the Feather River by 2 to 4 degrees Celsius. To reach this objective, they suggested the installation of a series of thermal curtains and dredging of Lake Almanor to send only the coldest water downstream. This caused the license to not be issued at that time and it is now being re-licensed.

During your review of the Project 2105 Licensing, I ask that you honor and uphold the April 22, 2004 Settlement Agreement 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 and not allow any additional releases of cold water from Lake Almanor.

My concerns with the cold water release plan are both environmental and economic. Environmentally, the cold water release will increase the temperature of the lake increasing already problematic algae blooms and harming fish, as well as other wildlife and pets who drink the lake water. Economically, this will harm the local economy which is dependent on tourism largely driven by fishing and lake activities which would be negatively impacted by having less fish and more algae.

Additionally, these concerns are exacerbated by recent drought and fires. The drought has lowered the lake levels and increased the number of shallow areas in the lake, already driving up lake temperatures. In addition, the recent Dixie Fire, the second largest in California's history, has resulted in a huge increase in nitrogen levels in the lake from the use of fire retardant throughout the area, additionally fueling the growth of algae. Finally, the fire has already decimated the surrounding area's economy. The entire town of Greenville was lost and many jobs have been eliminated. We should not be adding to the list of challenges for this area.

For these reasons I strongly urge that the FERC honor and uphold the April 22, 2004 Settlement Agreement filed on behalf of the Project 2105 Licensing Group.

Thank you,

Mike Hagan
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