

ORIGINAL

February 20, 2022

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

FILED
SECRETARY OF THE
COMMISSION

2022 MAR -2 P 2:42

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

FEDERAL ENERGY
REGULATORY COMMISSION

Dear Commissioners,

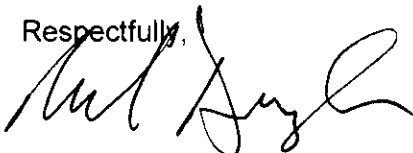
As you are aware, the re-licensing for Project 2105 has gone on for over 20 years. While most issues have been agreed to by all parties, there are a couple of outstanding issues--the biggest being the last-minute requirement by the State Water Resources Control Board to divert cold water from Lake Almanor California in order to lower the downstream water temperature in the North Fork of the Feather River through the use of a thermal curtain. This proposal would be devastating to the Trophy Fishery at Lake Almanor.

My wife and I live at 821 Timber Ridge Road on the peninsula in Lake Almanor, and the proposed diversion of cold water from the lake would have significant impact on us directly, the environment, and the communities around Lake Almanor. I don't understand the desire to lower the downstream water temperatures for the benefit of fish while destroying the fish in the lake. This makes no sense to me. The benefits of the cold-water diversion are outweighed by the damage done to the Lake Almanor ecosystem. Given Lake Almanor's large surface area and shallow depth, the lake water is already relatively warm in the summer as high 80 degrees at the surface. Further diversion will make the problem worse. The fish in the lake depend on the cold water at the bottom of the lake for survival during the summer months. An added disadvantage to warmer water is an algae bloom which is a direct result of the warm water. It is an obvious indication of declining health of the lake but bounces back with colder days during Fall and Winter months which cools the surface temperature. The lake and it's fishery are a major contributor to the local economy.

I belong to the Almanor Fishing Association (AFA) organization which is a group of 300 fishermen with the sole intent of keeping and enhancing the fishery at the lake. The lake features a First Class Trophy Trout Fishery for both Brown Trout and Rainbow Trout, many in the double digit weight class. The association also raises 50,000 fingerling trout during the winter months given to us by the California Fish & Wildlife Dept. This program has been ongoing for the past 30+ years. They are fed daily by a group of AFA volunteers rain, snow or shine. They are then released into the lake in the Spring after more than tripling in size.

The thermal curtain would benefit downstream fisheries, but would significantly harm Lake Almanor's trophy fish populations, the recreational use of the lake, and the local economy. I ask that you strongly reject the proposed thermal curtain for Lake Almanor.

Respectfully,



Rich Dengler
821 Timber Ridge Road
Lake Almanor, CA 96137
530-259-5899

Document Content(s)

DocBatch220302-0053.tif.....1