

**ORIGINAL**

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Federal Energy Regulatory Commission  
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Washington, D.C. 20426

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SECRETARY OF THE  
COMMISSION

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FEDERAL ENERGY  
REGULATORY COMMISSION

RE: Project 2105, Re-licensing PG&E and proposed release of cold water from Lake Almanor

Dear Commissioners:

I live and work in the Lake Almanor Basis, Plumas County, California. I have deep concerns that Conditions 1(B) and 6 included in the California State Water Resources Control Board's (SWRCB) Section 401 water quality certification will have a devastating negative impact on our community. The supplemental cold-water withdrawals envisioned to be taken from Lake Almanor during the summer months will damage our local economy, harm our families and degrade the environment and wildlife.

Our economy relies on forestry, the cold-water fishery and tourism, all which are under severe strain from the Dixie fire of 2021. Collins Company and Sierra Pacific Industries, both which manage forests here and employ a good percent of our population, lost up to half of their timber in the fire. This is a future product that is forever gone to our economy. Lake Almanor is a world-renown cold-water fishery, producing record setting Rainbow and German Brown Trout and supporting an abundance of birds and other wildlife that draw fisherman and ecotourists from across the US. The lake also attracts thousands of vacationers, many spending their entire summer enjoying the boating, water sports and cooler summer temperatures. As a result of the fire, residue from millions of gallons of fire retardant is making its way into the lake, supercharging the lake with nitrogen and setting the stage for toxic algae blooms and lower oxygen levels which threaten our fishery, our ecosystems and our tourism. Withdrawing additional cold water will exacerbate this situation and could destroy our economy altogether.

The Project 2105 Settlement Agreement reached in 2004 contained terms that protected the best interests of the environment and the economic welfare of the community. The Commission should promptly grant the license for Project 2105 and incorporate only the specific minimum flow provisions under the Settlement Agreement into the new license. The supplemental flow provisions and reservations of authority in the 401 certification as a whole (i.e., Conditions 1(B) and 6 combined) exceed the requirements of the Settlement Agreement and should be rejected.

Sincerely, *Sharon Benedetti*

Document Content(s)

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