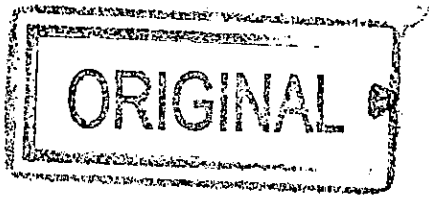


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FEDERAL ENERGY
REGULATORY COMMISSION

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

RE: Upper North Fork Feather River Project, FERC Project No. 2105

Ms. Bose,

My wife and I live at 370 Osprey Loop in the Lake Almanor West neighborhood. Lake Almanor has been a significant part of my life for over 50 years. As a child I spent a great deal of time with my father and grandfather on or around Lake Almanor. I was taught to love and appreciate the natural world that lives around and relies on the eco system of the lake.

Back in the 1970's and the 1980's one would see a rare Osprey and a few Grebes around the lake. As years went on, one would see Ospreys coming in greater numbers every spring to live and raise young birds around the lake. I never saw a Bald Eagle at Lake Almanor until the early 2000's. I would never see river otters. There might be a rare sighting of a Loon and there were a few Sandhill Cranes.

Today, as Lake Almanor thrives as a vigorous and healthy fishery, there is a whole eco system that lives on, in and around the lake.

It is this healthy and vigorous fishery that makes Lake Almanor a truly beautiful location to see wildlife.

There is now a large population of Bald Eagles and Golden Eagles that live around the lake all year long.

There are plentiful loons that are magical to see and hear.

The seasonal Grebes and Osprey are now plentiful.

There is also a healthy population of River Otters that call the lake home.

All of these beautiful creatures, that until recently were rarely if ever seen at Lake Almanor, are now there in large numbers to be seen and enjoyed by everyone because Lake Almanor is a healthy and vigorous fishery.

All of these animals that I have mentioned live on the many fish and aquatic life that thrives in Lake Almanor. It has taken many, many years to re-establish them here.

The plan divert the coldest water out of Lake Almanor and divert it downstream will certainly have widespread and pejorative consequences.

Losing this cold water will directly and negatively affect the population of Rainbow Trout, German Brown Trout and Smallmouth Bass that live in large quantities in the lake. These populations will dwindle and as they dwindle, the eco system that relies on these fish will also be seriously harmed. When the fish disappear or are significantly reduced in numbers, all of the wildlife that lives off of them will disappear or die.

Additionally, the warming of the lake will result in proliferation of the dangerous algae that arises as the water level drops and gets too warm. This year, as a result of extreme drought and cataclysmic wildfire, there was a

massive algae bloom on the lake. My dog was sick for weeks after swimming in the water. Imagine how this affected all of the wildlife around the lake.

It is also important to consider that the Lake Almanor area relies on the tourism that comes for the lake. People come from all around California and the United States to bird watch at Lake Almanor, to fish the lake and to enjoy water sports on the lake. A great deal of tourism will also disappear if the plan to divert the coldest water out of the lake is implemented. This will result in serious harm to the local economy. Far fewer people will come to enjoy water sports on a dirty lake with dangerous algae growing all over it. Fewer will come to fish if the fishery dies out and the people that come to see the wildlife will not come if there is little to see.

During your review of the Project 2105 Licensing, I ask that you do the following:

Please 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.

Please do not allow any additional releases of cold water from Lake Almanor beyond that agreed to in the 2004 Settlement Agreement. The quality of water in Lake Almanor and the health of our fisheries are critical to our economy, our businesses, the quality of life of the families in our community and the wonderful and diverse eco system that needs the lake to live.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James L. Nerli", written in a cursive style.

James L. Nerli

Document Content(s)

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