



United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0504
<http://feinstein.senate.gov>

*email - Bd members.
DWR - VICKY WHITNEY
JEANICE TIPPS
10/17 due*

September 28, 2005

Ms. Tam M. Doduc
Chair
California Environmental Protection Agency
State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I Street, 14th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95812

Dear Chairwoman Doduc:

I would like to join local citizens and Plumas County elected officials in expressing serious concerns about the installation of thermal curtains at Lake Almanor and Butt Lake.

It is my understanding that installing thermal curtains is one of the alternatives the Board is currently considering as part of the water quality permit required in order to relicense the Upper North Fork Feather River Project Hydroelectric Project.

Installing thermal curtains at Lake Almanor could jeopardize the health of the Lake by diverting cold water down the river. This could, in turn, have detrimental effects on the local economy by reducing the fish habitat at Lake Almanor as well as nearby Butt Lake.

I also understand that it will cost over \$50 million to install these thermal curtains and that there are questions as to whether these devices will ever be able to consistently maintain water temperatures of 68°F in the Feather River below Lake Almanor. Further, I understand that the Mountain Maidu Indians do not want to disturb gravesites which may be required as part of the installation of thermal curtains.

SEP. 29. 2005 11:50AM

SENATOR FEINSTEIN

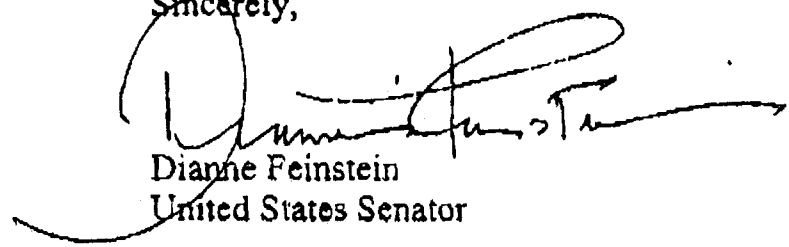
NO. 150

P. 3

Installing thermal curtains is opposed by an overwhelming majority of local citizens as well as State and Congressional elected officials. I would encourage the State Water Resources Control Board to work with the local community to determine an alternative that balances the health of Lake Almanor as well as the need to meet water quality standards of the Feather River.

Thank you for considering my comments and I look forward to learning how the Board proceeds.

Sincerely,


Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator

DF:mw

Cc: Ms Sharon Stohrer, State Water Resources Control Board

