

Wr401program

From: Nancy Ihara <nancyihara@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2016 8:10 PM
To: Wr401program
Subject: comments regarding environmental report for the KHP

The State Water Resources Control Board has identified significant water quality issues associated with the Klamath Hydroelectric Projects: fish passage blockage, microcystins, unnatural nutrient and dissolved oxygen loads, elevated temperatures and more.

At the public comment scoping hearing in Arcata on January 25th the effect of these compromised water quality conditions on fish and people downstream of the KHP dams was elaborated upon: fish migrating in late summer and early fall stall in the lower Klamath because of the elevated river temperatures upstream and as a result are exposed to the deadly ich parasite; people fishing in the river get rashes on their body when exposed to it; swimming in the river is unsafe; tribal ceremonies involving the river are hampered and postponed; economic opportunities provided to the local community in the past, prior to the construction of the dams, have been largely eliminated as the appeal of the river to people from outside the area has diminished; etc..

As one speaker pointed out, to try to avoid the worst environmental conditions in the river, waters from the Trinity River need to be regularly released to provide some cleansing.

The State Water Board should deny PacifiCorps its water quality certification and thus effectively halt the FERC relicensing process. Copco 1, Copco 2, Iron Gate and Fall Creek dams need to be removed to improve the water quality in the Klamath River.

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