

14 Oct 2005

California State Water Resources Control Board
Ms. Tam M. Dudoc, Chair
P.O. Box 100
Sacramento, CA 95812

Re: North Fork, Feather River (FERC Project 2105)

Dear Chairman Dudoc:

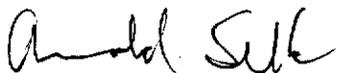
We recently moved to the Lake Almanor area. This lake supports an enthusiastic and optimistic community of citizens. Many have written expressing concerns about recommendations for placing an unproven and expensive "thermal curtain" in the lake to divert cold water downstream. I concur with these objections.

This "curtain" mischief was born with the idea that consistent cold water once occurred downstream from the lake that was formed after the dam was built. The water was surely cold when the days were cold. Once summer arrived and the temperature elevated, the streams lost their chill. We can guarantee cold streams if we can guarantee the weather. No one claims to be able to do this magical feat. Why spend money uselessly studying schemes promoting the impossible? And then spend more money (over \$50 million of PG&E ratepayers levy) to construct this objectionable thing. From a responsible management point of view, it makes no sense.

Two socially acceptable givens exist. One, flooding is bad. Two, hydroelectric generation of electricity is good. Control of the Feather River has achieved these things, so the dams should stay. However, a positive may evolve from this adventure into messing with Mother Nature. An Alternative D has been suggested – Upstream Mitigation. Review examples of the results of this Alternative. Better water quality, less stream erosion, better wildlife habitat, and a pro-nature environmental engagement. How can you argue against this suggested remedy? Even if the downstream water might move above 68° during the hot season, the rest of the watershed enjoys improved health.

During the Chester Community Meeting, a high school biology class did some empirical research. They took temperature readings of Lake Almanor. The results suggest that there may not be enough cold water in the lake to support the needs for cooling downstream. Why did the students have to be the ones to do this? Shouldn't the paid research teams have included this in their reports?

Sincerely submitted,



Arnold Selk

