From: Arielle Halpern
To: Wr401program
Subject: Klamath Dam Removal Comments
Date: Tuesday, February 26, 2019 10:45:28 AM
Attachments: MSBEC_Klamath Dams_Comments.pdf

Hello Ms. Siebal,

Please find our comments attached on the removal of the Klamath dams.

Kind Regards,
Arielle

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MOUNT SHASTA BIOREGIONAL ECOLOGY CENTER

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February 26, 2019

ATTN: Ms. Michelle Siebal
State Water Resources Control Board
Division of Water Rights — Water Quality Certification Program
P.O. Box 2000, Sacramento, CA 95812-2000.

To Ms. Siebal,

On behalf of the Mount Shasta Bioregional Ecology Center, I am writing to voice our support for the removal J.C. Boyle, Copco No. 1, Copco No. 2 and Iron Gate Dams on the Klamath River. The removal of these dams is a critical step in enhancing healthy human-environmental systems in the Klamath Bioregion. The Klamath Bioregion a biodiversity hotspot and one of the four most diverse conifer forests in the world. Benefits including reducing the mortality of juvenile salmonid populations, reducing salmonid diseases, including *P. minibicornis* and *C. Shasta*. The above challenges are a result of high temperatures, low water flows, and high densities of fish attempting to access upstream habitat currently blocked by the dams. High temperatures and low flows also contribute to toxic blue green algae blooms during summer months which affect wildlife, recreation, and aesthetics.

Opponents of dam removal state effects on groundwater/irrigation and energy as potential detrimental results of dam removal. As the DEIR states, the proposed project would have no significant impact on groundwater and irrigation as most agriculture in the area uses diversions from Klamath tributaries. Dams are not used for water supply or for flood control.

According to the Hydropower Technical Benefits Report, the total installed capacity of the four Klamath River hydropower plants is 169 MW, average summer capacity is 55.9 MW and winter dependable capacity is 66.6 MW: These dams run dependably at approximately 30% of their total capacity. The $400 million dollars it would have taken to upgrade the fish passage and water quality systems and obtain a new operational license from FERC was not cost effective relative to the amount of hydropower these dams generate. Renewables and efficiency measures can replace the energy input without contributing to climate change. A study by the California Energy Commission and the Department of the Interior found that removing the dams

and compensating for the loss of power production with efficiency measures and other sources would save PacifiCorp customers up to $285 million over 30 years.

Once again, we would like to voice our support for the removal of the Klamath dams.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Dr. Arielle Halpern
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