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February 11, 2015

Mrs. Felicia Marcus, Chair
State Water Resources Control Board
PO Box 100
Sacramento, CA 95812

Dear Chair Marcus,

I am concerned about the recent Draft Environmental Impact Report findings for the Upper North Fork Feather River Hydroelectric Project (FERC #2105) and would like to express my opposition to the staff recommendations of the DEIR.

Recreation in and around Lake Almanor is critical to the economy of Plumas and Lassen Counties. With the decline of the timber industry, it is vital to keep the remaining resources available and open for the communities and the businesses that have thrived and existed along the shores for many years.

I have voiced my concerns and opposed all policies regarding releasing cold water and installation of thermal curtains at Lake Almanor since 2005. It is bad public policy to implement very expensive measures that have no guarantee or scientific proof that they will bring any definitive result. Draining cold water from the lake may have serious consequences for the long term health of the current fisheries, bring possible algae bloom and increase water turbidity. I fear that any impacts to the cold water pool at Lake Almanor in the summer will destroy habitat for the fish that currently live in the lake.

Additionally, I have yet to see any scientific data that proves, without a doubt, that releasing cold water will help the fish 40 miles downstream. What guarantees do we have that the released cold water will remain cold with the 40 miles it will travel downstream during the summer months? Constructing thermal curtain structures to remove cold water will reduce the cold water habitat and change the balance of Lake Almanor's dual ecosystem of fish habitat and recreation areas. What visual impacts will these thermal curtains or buoys have for Lake Almanor?

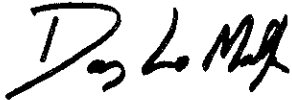
One or a combination of these options would at best bring a very marginal temperature drop under ideal circumstances. The tradeoff, however, will most certainly be large impacts to the current lake environment at a tremendous cost to the ratepayers. Since the DEIR was drafted long before the drought I would ask the Board to review the report in light of these very serious current conditions. If drought conditions were considered, how has it impacted the options you are proposing?

Has the State Water Resources Control Board taken into account that the Feather River below Lake Almanor has series of important renewable energy generating hydroelectric facilities that will slow and capture any additional cold water release and eventually return the temperature to what is already present? Also, the cold water release is stated to benefit trout, a non-endangered species that also

lives in Lake Almanor. Has the Board considered that the proposed thermal curtain may negatively affect trout residing in the lake? Why would the Board treat a non-protected species different if it resides in a river verses a lake?

I encourage the Board to look to other alternatives and to weigh heavily the comments from the community. Any decision will drastically impact the beauty and the economy of Lake Almanor and those who live, visit, and operate businesses around her shores. I would like a response from the State Water Resource Control Board and an opportunity to meet regarding my questions and concerns. Please contact my District Director, Lisa Buescher Mara at my Oroville District Office at 530-534-7100.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Doug LaMalfa". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Doug LaMalfa
Member of Congress