

Thaler, Parker@Waterboards

From: Georgiana Myers <sregonlady@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, January 29, 2016 4:45 PM
To: Thaler, Parker@Waterboards
Subject: klamath river

January 29, 2016

Dear Water Board,

My name is Georgiana Gensaw, I am Kaurk and Yurok. I was born and raised at Sregon a Yurok Village on the Klamath River. I am daughter and sister to Yurok fishermen and now I am wife and mother to 3 Yurok fishermen. I have one more on the way, I really hope it's a basket weaver. I live in Klamath, the river is a part of our daily conversation. How it looks, if it's low or high. My husband and I both enjoy taking our sons to the river to fish, to skip rocks or just watch it flow. It's a huge part of life...I pray that it will always be. Life is different for my sons than it was for me. I used to be able to swim in the summer, grab food in the morning and be at the river all day until my mom hollered for us. Now we have pack up and leave Klamath and travel to either the Smith River or to the Salmon to go swimming. When my sons do go fishing I don't allow them to go if they have cuts or scrapes. My loved ones getting sick from the toxic water is a real fear and we try as hard as we can to take extra steps to ensure not happening. Such as shower as soon as they get home. Washing their fishing clothes separate, not taking our dogs to the river and keeping our fishing gear as clean as possible. As far as eating the fish, we re-rinse them when they come home and we are careful about inspecting the fish. We look at the gills and the meat for anything that should not be there. Sometimes when the toxic levels get really bad we just stop fishing altogether. It is heartbreaking and there is nothing more depressing than having Yurok fishermen unable to fish their river. Living in Klamath and so close to the estuary the river can mask its sickness. It can appear healthy and robust. But just one or turns up there River and then River changes dramatically and without warnings. It's low, the eddies are filled with form and the river appears to look sick. PacifiCorp's dams threaten public health by producing toxic algae in its reservoirs and releasing toxic algae by products down the Klamath River. It's awful that so many river folks are subjected to this polluted water. It is the Water Board's job to secure safe and clean water for all of us, not for PacifiCorp.

Sincerely,
Georgiana Gensaw