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PLUMAS COUNTY
DISTRICT THREE TOWN HALL MEETING
FERC PROJECT 2105
6:00 PM, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2015
VETERANS MEMORIAL HALL
CHESTER, CALIFORNIA

TRANSCRIPT OF
PUBLIC COMMENT REGARDING THE
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT PRESENTED BY
THE STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD

REPORTED BY GERIE A. BUNCH, C.S.R. No. 6669

1 **WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2015, CHESTER, CALIFORNIA**

2 **ERIN RYAN:** Thank you very much. I'm going to be
3 three people, so I'll go swiftly, but I'm going to go a little
4 bit over.

5 So first I'm going to be Assemblyman James
6 Gallagher. He did not do a formal letter, he did talking
7 points. So I'll read those for you from his office.

8 He said: "I cannot and do not support the efforts
9 to release cold water from Lake Almanor for a number
10 of reasons:

11 "The scientific evidence has not been conclusive.
12 Extensive analysis shows that the cold water export
13 plan would only reduce the downstream water
14 temperatures by roughly one degree Celsius.

15 "The release of the cold water from the hypolimnion"
16 -- I'm not a water person, they did a little homework, we
17 looked it up, it had another confusing word as part of the
18 definition, so anyway --

19 -- "of the lake could significantly impact the
20 quality of the lake causing harm to fisheries and
21 leading to potentially dangerous algae blooms.

22 "Both alternatives listed in the EIR will
23 significantly impact the pristine conditions and
24 destroy the aesthetics of that region of the Sierra
25 Nevada Mountain Range. This impact is even identified

1 in the EIR as significant and unavoidable, chapter
2 6.9. What is not discussed in the EIR are the
3 additional impacts that these alternatives will have
4 on the area. The grotesque thermal curtain will also
5 negatively impact the local economy and property
6 values.

7 "The EIR absolutely must explore alternatives that
8 do not harm the quality of the Lake and its
9 surrounding area."

10 I guess you want me to give these to you, that would
11 make it go easier.

12 MS. RAGAZZI: No, you'll give them to me.

13 ERIN RYAN: Okay.

14 Sorry, I'm having a little vertigo situation. If I
15 sounds a little waivery it's because the page keeps moving a
16 little bit.

17 This one is from Senator Jim Nielsen. It says:

18 "Dear Chair Marcus, I write to you concerning the
19 Upper North Fork Feather River hydroelectric project,
20 water quality certification.

21 "It is my understanding that after nine years, the
22 State Water Resources Control Board released their
23 draft EIR as it relates to this project. I am opposed
24 to the Water Board's staff recommendation and of the
25 draft EIR.

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"The report examines two alternatives for cooling water to a maximum of 20 degrees Celsius at the Rock Creek/Cresta reaches at the Feather River. Both alternatives call for a variety of actions to take cold water from Lake Almanor and both alternatives include installation of thermal curtains in Almanor and Butt Lake. Still, to this day, after 12 years since P.G.& E. began their licensing process, the community has received no evidence that the river temperatures were cooler prior to the construction of the existing hydroelectric facilities.

"The Board is no doubt aware of the enormous community opposition to these proposals. I too think that the benefits simply does not outweigh the costs. Not only are thermal curtains potentially very costly to install and maintain, the economic and environmental impact to nearby communities must be considered.

"Drawing immense quantities of cold water from these shallow water bodies will undoubtedly upset the ecological balance and corollary recreational and economic benefits these lakes provide. Furthermore, the downstream benefit of these plans are negligible.

"I encourage the Board to abandon these ecologically intrusive and economically unstable alternatives. I

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appreciate the Board's willingness to consider my comments and should you have any questions, please contact my Chico office.

"Senator Jim Nielsen."

Moving on to our own office, now I'll be the District Representative from Doug LaMalfa's office.

"Dear Chair Marcus, I'm concerned about the recent draft EIR report findings for the Upper North Fork Feather River Hydroelectric Project and would like to express my opposition to the staff recommendations of the draft EIR.

"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 open and available for the community and the businesses that have thrived and existed along the shores for many years.

"I have voiced my concerns and opposed all policies regarding cold water 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 results. Draining cold water from the lake may have serious consequences of the long term health of the current fisheries, bring possible algae

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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, releasing cold water will help the fish forty 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 trade off, however, most certainly will 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 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?

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"Has the State Water Resources Control Board taken into account that the Feather River below Lake Almanor has a series of important renewable energy generating hydroelectric facilities, that will slow and capture any additional cold water release and eventually return temperature to what it already is at 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 versus a lake?

"I encourage the Board to weigh heavily the comments from the community and any decision that will drastically impact the beauty and economy of Lake Almanor and those who live, visit, and operate businesses around her shores. I would like a response from the State Water Resources Control Board and an opportunity to meet with them regarding my questions and concerns."

And it gives contact information.

"Signed, Doug LaMalfa."

--o0o--

1 **BRUCE ROSS:** Thank you for holding this meeting,
2 first of all. The turn-out speaks for itself. I would also,
3 you know, I could -- I could repeat a lot of what my
4 predecessor said. I won't belabor the points. Other people
5 make a couple interesting points we wanted to make.

6 Um, first of all, it's not a requirement -- it is a
7 requirement to take reasonable efforts to accomplish that.
8 And it does not make sense to our office that harming water
9 quality of an important lake is a reasonable step to take to
10 improve the water quality somewhere else.

11 So I would thank the Water Board for what it's done
12 so far, and the plan, at least, to do everything, all
13 reasonable habitat improvements, other steps, before it put in
14 the thermal curtain, which is not a good idea.

15 But, what concerns us is this sort of amorphousness
16 of the staff proposal and the plan, it's very important, I
17 think -- if this is going to be the plan -- to understand what
18 are the metrics, when will you know if the river is good
19 enough, what is good enough, what will we know, and how long
20 will the thermal curtain be sort of hanging over the head of
21 the community. At some point, you'd like to have an answer and
22 a settlement.

23 Particularly -- the other thing is there's a lot of
24 evidence that Lake Almanor has been warming. I don't think
25 anyone really thinks scientifically that it's likely to get

1 cooler in the coming years. So that's already happening. How
2 is that going to be worked into the lake water quality, the
3 river water quality. That's a very important thing that we
4 think needs to be addressed. And I'll stop. Thank you very
5 much.

6 --o0o--

7
8 **BILL DENNISON:** Thank you. This is like old home
9 week. My name is Bill Dennison. I was the -- I am the former
10 District 3, Plumas County Supervisor. I served here from '95
11 to 2006. I was a member of the signing for, on behalf of the
12 Board of Supervisors, on the 2004 agreement that we've been
13 talking about today.

14 I'm impressed with Mr. Barnes' review. It was much
15 better than the draft environmental impact report that I read.
16 I could understand what you said. The intent is to provide
17 comments on the draft report.

18 It's been difficult for me to do that. In fact,
19 some of the people have asked if I got these bandages because I
20 bang my head on the desk while reading it. But, no, that's not
21 true. The reason that it's been difficult is because of the
22 State Water Resource Control Board, and I'll call them the
23 Board from this point on.

24 I'm convinced that they did not listen to us in
25 September 2005, I'll tell you why later.

1 Two, I found from reading this, I believe to date
2 the Board has not served the people well. And in fact, appear
3 willing to abuse the CEQA process that is required under the
4 California Clean Water Act.

5 Now, that sounds a little harsh, but I'm here really
6 attempting to put this 20-year episode into a perspective for
7 the outsiders who have the power but not the right to change
8 socio-economic lives of many people, some of them here in this
9 room.

10 One of the travesties of this process is that the
11 agency representatives keep changing. The final decisions of
12 this draft may be made by those who have no reason to really
13 care, as long as strict but not always reasonable standards are
14 maintained.

15 One of the insidious and effective government
16 weapons is delay. The longer the process, the fewer people
17 with institutional memory that can and will insist that
18 appointed officials meet the expected goal of, do no harm.
19 Many who have carried the banner to assure that people are
20 heard and understood on this issue are not here tonight. I
21 think of Marvin Alexander, godfather of the Lake Almanor.
22 Mike Willhoit, gone for the winter. He didn't die, but he's
23 gone. There is nothing in this report, I state to you, that
24 shows for sure that the thermal curtain will work.

25 Now to cover that, the report says, if it doesn't

1 work, we'll take more water out of the lake. That's what we're
2 here to tell you not to do.

3 It's important that all the public comments --
4 listen to this carefully -- all of the public comments were
5 reduced to little boxes with a check in it that indicated they
6 are all less than significant. Everything we told in 2005 have
7 been put into a little box as insignificant. That's important
8 because the way CEQA is handled from that point on.

9 Let me give you some examples of how they didn't pay
10 attention. In regard to the curtains affects water temperature
11 in Lake Almanor. The answer was none.

12 In order to make that come true, they'll implement
13 temperature monitoring and operation coordination and augment
14 stocking of cold-water fisheries following critical dry water
15 years.

16 If we lose fish, they'll plant some more. Why don't
17 they take the million of dollars that they're going to use on
18 the curtains, plant a whole bunch of fish down in the river, if
19 that's the solution to it.

20 The question, could -- could this affect the aquatic
21 habitat conditions of Lake Almanor? None. No impact, no need
22 to consider mitigating measures.

23 The same statement was made in regard to aquatic
24 habitat in Butt Reservoir. Nothing said about the trophy fish
25 that I could find. Nothing said about the impacts that the

1 Native Americans that stood up here, told all the reasons they
2 should've paid attention. Nothing about it there. There are
3 more, as well, but I won't go into those.

4 Mr. Barnes did a good job of showing what CEQA was
5 supposed to do and how it is to be handled.

6 The DER had been written to meet -- has been written
7 -- this draft report has been written to meet those CEQA
8 requirements. What they have done by listing every documented
9 concern as insignificant. If there's nothing significant, it's
10 easy to take care of it. They didn't listen.

11 But by a stroke of a pen, they have negated every
12 comment received in opposition to the thermal curtain
13 installation. I ask that you take back the questions to the
14 Board, how can that be?

15 I'm hesitating because I cut two pages out of this
16 in order to meet this.

17 In my written statement, um, there are many
18 deficiencies, I won't go over those except I could find no cost
19 benefit analysis, none, that I see. If there are, it's very
20 small.

21 In fact, it's difficult to determine the entire cost
22 in extra facilities that are put in here. Mike Willhoit took
23 the time to send me a document that I don't have time to read.
24 But part of it shows that we're the investment, that by the
25 year '50, the investment would \$90 million per year, annually.

1 Check on that, and see if he's correct. Now this is an
2 unfathomable amount of money for potential increase in the
3 growth of fish downstream, while killing many fish in the lake.
4 Why aren't the benefits listed that can justify these
5 outlandish costs.

6 There are omissions and errors in DEIR and I can't
7 go over those, but there's some you need to look up -- because
8 you can't find them -- to show impact in P.G.& E. Project river
9 water temperature, it's imperative to determine historical
10 water temperatures. You won't find this in there. It -- it's
11 more than apparent that these temperatures were based largely
12 on a 1915 photograph of a Maidu woman with a basket of fish,
13 and an earlier picture of a full creel of fish. That's the
14 hypothesis on which they're showing the historical water
15 temperatures before P.G.& E. put in their installations.

16 The criteria for setting the critical water
17 temperature limits were based on steelhead which reportedly
18 need about two degrees colder water than the Feather River
19 trout. This is possibly why the Central Valley Regional Water
20 Control Boards would not support the proposed 303-D listing of
21 the North Fork. There's no record showing this, folks.

22 But if you look at the letter that was dated
23 December 2005 from Joe Pedri to Joe Karkoski, they say that we
24 do not support 303-D temperature listing for the river. And a
25 copy was sent to Sharon Stohrer, Water Rights. They knew it

1 wasn't supported by their own experts and just a mere few weeks
2 before the DWR listed the river as temperature impaired. They
3 didn't listen to their own people.

4 Why would they choose to overrule opposition to
5 those more qualified to know the facts? The same reason they
6 disregarded Ron DeCota who knew this lake better than anybody.
7 The same reason they disregarded the professional water guides,
8 the fishing guides. They told them more about the river and
9 the lake than they'll find from their scientists and engineers.
10 They didn't listen because they didn't fit the program.

11 I'm not through.

12 FROM THE AUDIENCE: Let him talk.

13 MS. RAGAZZI: I want to make one comment. Other
14 folks gave up their time so he could have more time. So it's
15 not that he's taking more time.

16 BILL DENNISON: And you just took 20 seconds.

17 There was no mention of a P.G.& E.'s 2005 report on
18 water temperature monitoring. In summary it said, water
19 monitoring indicates a mean daily water temperature of 20
20 degrees Celsius, or less, is consistently achieved in the
21 months of July and August and no reasonable water measures are
22 available to achieve such water temperature year round. The
23 goal is unrealistic and unnatural, is what P.G.& E. said.

24 I know that you did read the FERC, the Federal
25 Energy Regulatory Commission, EIR. I didn't see it in the

1 paperwork anywhere because -- that's important because FERC
2 said, we do not recommend the thermal curtain given the adverse
3 effects that these measures would have on the lake's
4 environmental, cultural and recreational -- they named the
5 whole thing that these folks have been talking about for five
6 years.

7 It can't be found in the report. And that has not
8 been taken into consideration.

9 I'm almost through. In summary, the people cannot
10 be pleased in the manner that the Board has received and
11 discarded public input. It is essential that the Board take a
12 very close look at our sincere comments, again, and the facts
13 again, before they declare their acceptance of the destruction
14 of the lake by thermal curtains. Any questions? Have I made
15 myself clear?

16 Thank you.

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18 --o0o--

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20 **REINA ROGERS:** Good evening, everyone. My name IS
21 Reina Rogers, R-e-i-n-a, R-o-g-e-r-s. I'm with Maidu Cultural
22 and Development Group. So our comments -- I'll just get to the
23 point because he used a few of our minutes.

24 Okay. The Maidu people are opposed the thermal
25 curtains. The -- one of the main reasons is that their intake

1 will impact cultural resource sites there. I don't think the
2 report did an adequate job of analyzing that impact or talking
3 about it.

4 Also, the cultural resources mitigation plan is
5 completely inadequate. It doesn't address it at all. It
6 doesn't say anything about cultural monitors or how that's
7 going to occur or any of those things. So the part on the
8 cultural resources is just not adequate. It just didn't even
9 talk about most of those things.

10 Thank you.

11
12 FRED MANKINS: Good evening. My name is Fred
13 Mankins. And I'm president of the Tas mam Koyom Indian
14 foundation. And I'm Maidu. And we oppose the thermal curtain.
15 We've been through this nine years ago and now we're going
16 through it again, except P.G.& E. don't have the reins, I guess
17 State Water Quality Control Board does now. So I see kind of a
18 stitch in the plan here.

19 But anyway my concern was the plan didn't have
20 anything in there about NAGPRA, Native American Graves
21 Protection Act. And mainly because in Prattville we have
22 ancestral burials, graves there. First time P.G.& E. dredged
23 there, they dredged up human remains, skulls.

24 And mainly because they didn't move the Native
25 American graveyard there. But now we have Federal laws

1 protecting our grave sites. And they put in there, this EIR
2 that they're not going to dredge, they're going to put fill in
3 there. Well, under NAGPRA, that's illegal. You can't do that.
4 That's also disturbing Native American grave sites.

5 And you put here, should previously undiscovered,
6 eligible historical, archeological resources or human
7 remains -- well, P.G.& E. knows human remains are there because
8 they dug them up the first time.

9 And it says should they be encountered, well, this
10 falls, once again, under NAGPRA. So that's our concern there.
11 And it's happened once before, and we won't see it again. If
12 they want to see it again, I will see them in Washington.

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14 --o0o--
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16 **TRINA CUNNINGHAM:** My name is Trina Cunningham,
17 T-r-i-n-a, C-u-n-n-i-n-g-h-a-m. I am part of -- I work with
18 the Maidu Summit Consortium as well as the California Indian
19 Environmental Alliance. I work with a lot of tribal outreach
20 and listen to the concerns of the tribes in this area. So some
21 of the tribal concerns are cold water fisheries, which have
22 been addressed pretty -- pretty well this evening, but our
23 concerns support what has already been stated.

24 Um, also the genetic diversity, with the current
25 drought situation, and um, less water quantity as well as

1 quality. There's concern about genetic diversity in fish being
2 able to survive in different reaches, not just of the North
3 Fork.

4 Other -- another one, as Fred Mankins just
5 mentioned, is the further disturbance of the significant
6 cultural sites, and the need to address NAGPRA.

7 The fourth one is that tribal consultation has been
8 formally requested since 2006 by the Susanville Indian
9 Rancheria, and they have not felt like they've received
10 consultation. They haven't received consultation and would
11 like to have consultation going forward to look at further
12 strategies to insure maintenance and management of healthy
13 water, amongst other things.

14 The last thing is the Maidu cultural development
15 group also has not received consultation and does have
16 intervener status and would like to continue being informed.

17 Thank you.

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19 --o0o--
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21 **GOEFF FOSS:** I can talk from back here. I can
22 just --

23 MS. RAGAZZI: Can you please -- we want to make sure
24 your comments get recorded by the Court Reporter.

25 GOEFF FOSS: This country is supposed to be a

1 democracy, voted on things by the people. Some we have a State
2 Water -- Water Resources Board that's making these decisions
3 which have no elected officials. They're appointed by Jerry
4 Brown. So nobody in here has a chance to even vote on the
5 people who are choosing what's going to happen.

6 The resources of the land belong to the people of
7 the land per the constitution of the United States.

8 These resources are ours. They belong to the people
9 here. If you ask the people here, who here is for it the
10 thermal curtain. Pretty one way slide to me.

11 Thank you.

12
13 --o0o--
14

15 **HANSPETER WALTER:** That's me, thank you. My name is
16 Hanspeter Walter, H-a-n-s-p-e-t-e-r, W-a-l-t-e-r. I'm a
17 shareholder of the law firm of Kronick, Moskovitz, Tiedemann &
18 Girard in Sacramento.

19 I'm here today to represent the views and comments,
20 of the countless members of the public including Mr. Bill
21 Johnson.

22 I have evaluated the EIR and find it to be flawed in
23 many respects. These flaws I believe are partly a result of
24 the distortion of the CEQA process which is being used here as
25 a justification for a decision that seems to have already been

1 made.

2 The CEQA flaws are too numerous to discuss in detail
3 tonight, but they will be included in a forthcoming comment
4 letter. But briefly, to list a few:

5 The baseline of 2005 is obsolete. It fails to
6 account for over ten years of recent data, new hydrologic data,
7 climate change, some of the worst drought years on record.

8 The EIR is far too cursory in almost all of its
9 analyses, especially in light magnitude and complexity of the
10 project at hand and the lasting effects of whatever decision is
11 made, affects that will be decades to come.

12 I have, for example, a couple of analytical flaws.
13 Others have mentioned it. I've been able -- unable to locate
14 any historic records, data or modeling output to show what the
15 temperature in the lower stretches of the river would be
16 without the project.

17 And, in fact, the EIR admits that the East Branch
18 of the North fork is often several degrees hotter where it
19 flows into the North Fork. And the East Branch is unregulated.
20 It has no power projects on it. You cannot hold the Lake
21 Almanor project and the lake responsible for mitigating the
22 effects of other projects or of altering environment conditions
23 it does not cause and which appear to be natural conditions of
24 high ambient temperatures and other land characteristics
25 downstream.

1 Biological impacts are ignored and downplayed
2 unreasonably and unscientifically.

3 Recreational impacts suffer the same fate.
4 Regional economical impacts appeared to be ignored entirely,
5 even though they are clearly subject to CEQA because they will
6 translate into physical effects in the community such as
7 blight, loss of stores and services.

8 Climate change is also not adequately discussed,
9 even though it is and will have an effect over the 30 to 50
10 horizon of this project.

11 The alternatives are inadequate. Several viable,
12 more feasible alternatives are not even addressed or improperly
13 dismissed.

14 Mitigation is also inadequate for the few impacts
15 that the EIR actually admits.

16 The project objectives and project description are
17 inadequate or not there.

18 Modeling and analyses are biased, flawed,
19 uncalibrated and selectively presented.

20 The "No Project Alternative" is also inadequate. In
21 sum, the EIR fails to perform its task as an informational
22 document to foster informed decision-making, public involvement
23 and public accountability.

24 The errors in the EIR prevent meaningful public
25 participation and an accurate understanding of the

1 environmental impacts and trade-offs being proposed. These
2 same flaws render the EIR unsuitable for the State Board to
3 make its decision as well.

4 We are convinced a thorough analysis would show that
5 impacts and trade-offs sacrificing Lake Almanor's environment
6 and community for one to two degree temperature difference, it
7 seeks to alter stream conditions that are not caused by Lake
8 Almanor, would be unreasonable, imprudent and reckless.

9 While tonight is a CEQA hearing, I will also add
10 that the concept of sacrificing of Lake Almanor -- a reservoir
11 whose environmental and social situation has reached a kind of
12 balance and equilibrium -- it is just plain bad policy.

13 It amounts to an unconstitutional, unreasonable use
14 of water, a violation of the Public Trust Doctrine, a violation
15 of the Clean Water Act and Federal and State anti-degradation
16 policies.

17 Releasing this water with a known impact for
18 speculative downstream benefit is a tremendously shortsighted
19 approach to the problems that the Board appears to be wanting
20 address in the Lower North Fork Feather River.

21 The riparian restoration alternative that was
22 presented by the County of Plumas seems like a much more
23 forward-sighted, long-lasting beneficial -- beneficial
24 alternative that has not received any attention in the EIR.

25 I ask, because of all these flaws, that you retract

1 the draft EIR and improve on its analyses along the lines
2 discussed by me and others here tonight, and then recirculate a
3 new EIR with sufficient adequate analysis and detail of many of
4 these feasible alternatives.

5 I also ask, if you won't do that, that you provide
6 more time for public comment by extending the public comment
7 period at least another month or more, so that people here who
8 are making very valid comments also have a chance to
9 communicate those in writing to this, the State Board. Because
10 written comments are more important than what you say here.
11 The other gentleman said, you don't want to be a check on a
12 box. You want to submit written comments that the Board needs
13 to deal with.

14 That's all I have tonight.

15
16 --o0o--
17

18 **DICK DANIEL:** I won't repeat questions -- my name is
19 Dick Daniel. I'm a retired fisheries biologist. I have
20 40 years of professional experience including working on
21 virtually all of P.G. & E.'s hydro-releasing projects over the
22 last 40 years.

23 Um, first of all, I, for the record, I share the
24 opinion that I think was expressed by P.G. & E. earlier that the
25 thermal curtain concept is unwise. Frankly, I think it's

1 unwise for several reasons, not just those that have been
2 stated by those who have gone before me, but one of the issues
3 that really, really causes me concern is the fact that it's not
4 operable.

5 In other words, when it's turned on, irrespective of
6 what the water temperatures are that are being diverted through
7 that thermal curtain, it can't be shut off unless P.G.& E.
8 shuts off the Prattville diversion, which would cost them
9 additional energy generation, and a lot of operational
10 problems.

11 Secondly, I share the opinion of virtually everyone
12 in this room that the Draft Environmental Impact Report is
13 inadequate. Frankly, it's based on old data, old models and
14 some very old assumptions.

15 It does not evaluate the benefit associated with the
16 cold water areas brought about in Lake Almanor as a result of
17 the significant stream in-flow and the springs that are
18 throughout the lake-bed that generate thermal refugia during
19 the summer for our trout.

20 It does predict that there would be something like a
21 four to five percent reduction in the cold water habitat of the
22 lake, which in and of itself is a very deceptive and perhaps
23 false conclusion. That five percent reduction would be applied
24 to 20 percent of the cold water in the lake, not a hundred
25 percent, but 20 percent of the lake is cold during the summer

1 months.

2 That dramatically increases the volume of impact and
3 potential destruction of over-summer fisheries habitat.

4 Once again the age of the data is such it that it
5 does not incorporate the more concurrent hydrology that P.G.&
6 E. has analyzed which presents a very dramatic picture of
7 reduction of flow into Lake Almanor, and in particular a
8 reduction of the flow from the cold water springs.

9 The document does acknowledge that Lake Almanor
10 supports about a million visitors ever year, many of whom come
11 for the trophy trout. I don't think any sort of economic
12 analysis of that impact of the community was done. But many of
13 the people that I talked to in the neighborhood are very
14 concerned about the continued survival of Chester which depends
15 very dramatically on that visitor use.

16 Thank you very much for the opportunity.

17

18 --o0o--

19

20 **JEFF LeBERT:** Jeff LeBert, L-e-B-e-r-t.

21 One thing I haven't heard is, okay, while the lake
22 temperature will go up, because they're trying to cool water
23 down below which -- who cares about down below. We live here.

24 The tourism will totally take a dive when -- in the
25 recent years, and I went and checked this with the doctor

1 today, that we're having more cases of Schistosmosis [sic]
2 which is a flat worm parasite. That sounds great, doesn't it.
3 Parasite? We all would love to have some of those. We should
4 put that on billboards, so people know when they come up here
5 what they're getting into.

6 I did some research on this parasite, and it's a
7 nasty, nasty little parasite. They kind of down-played it,
8 called it Swimmers Itch. This worm enters your body and has a
9 -- well for one, two -- 200 million people have died of this in
10 74 countries. That doesn't sound like something to play with.

11 And you know, tourism, people come up here to go
12 into the water. And I know that this has been happening, this
13 year and last year I've heard about it. I didn't let my kids
14 or my animals go in that water. But I didn't see it posted
15 anywhere, and there were cases of this caught in Lake Almanor.

16 So, this should concern everyone here.

17 And that's all I got to say about it.

18
19 --o0o--
20

21 **DOUG NEAL:** Thank you. Thank you for being here
22 tonight, giving us an opportunity to speak to you about this
23 thermal curtain issue.

24 Hi, my name is Doug Neal. I'm a fishing guide here
25 at Lake Almanor. I'm a member of the Lake Almanor Fishing

1 Association and a year-around resident here at Lake Almanor.

2 I can also speak for many people that fish with me
3 as fishing clients, over the years. We have discussed all the
4 details about the thermal curtain. We've all agreed that it's
5 a bad idea.

6 You can see we have a very concerned crowd here
7 tonight. If this meeting was held in the summer instead of the
8 middle of winter, I'm sure the people would be hundreds and
9 hundreds or more packed out into the parking lot, all against
10 this thermal curtain. So good job on avoiding that summer
11 meeting.

12 As a guide I spend more time on the water than most
13 people here in this room. I doubt very many of you here have
14 fished Lake Almanor.

15 Lake Almanor is a shallow lake. Its average depths
16 are only about fifty feet this time of year. During drought
17 conditions, it's even lower.

18 Of course, it's been estimated only six percent of
19 this lake is considered cold water. If you take that cold
20 water out, it's going to affect water quality, put stress on
21 fish, interrupt natural spawning that's been going on here for
22 decades.

23 I can tell you any removal of the cold water is
24 going to be detrimental to the integrity of this lake. Fish
25 will be focused and forced into the springs and tributaries,

1 where dissolved oxygen levels will be quickly used up. They
2 will not be able to spawn.

3 We will see the impact of this slowly, over the
4 years, long after the decisions by you people have been made in
5 the wrong way.

6 Lake levels will reach a record low, probably this
7 summer because of the drought. We're entering year three of a
8 drought. The Cornell University study calls for a ten-year
9 drought here in California, and we're only in year three.

10 Imagine what a thermal curtain will do to us if we
11 remove what cold water we have now, when there's no more coming
12 in.

13 The proposed location of the thermal curtain is
14 right there by Prattville. Right there. Most of you guys
15 haven't been there. I'm there all the time.

16 There's under water gravel beds there. Matriarch
17 Brown Trout are known to spawn in this area. I've seen it many
18 times. I've seen male Brown Trout exhibiting territorial
19 spawning displays as they stake out their area where hens below
20 are nesting reproducing natural fish in a natural environment.
21 That took a hundred years to make, and now you're deciding what
22 to do now in a short time.

23 The proposed removal of 42,000 tons of material will
24 destroy the spawning beds that have been there for decades.

25 Aquatic insect patches will be affected. Migrating

1 birds, Ospreys, Grebes, aquatic insect catchers and smaller
2 trout from spawning, will be affected, as the dominos begin to
3 drop at a rate we cannot stop once it starts.

4 This lake will be forever changed, if this wasteful
5 unwanted five-million-dollar boondoggle of pork barrel spending
6 project is allowed to go forward. Guess who will pay for it,
7 taxpayers? No, the P.G. & E. rate payers you see in this room.

8 To alter this lake like this will possibly destroy
9 our lake, our homes and our livelihoods.

10 You know, ten years ago, when this whole fiasco
11 started, one engineer said the easiest way to cool the water in
12 this lake is to use solar-powered water chillers downstream.
13 That was ten years ago. Look at the process and look how much
14 we've come in technology with photo-electric energy and water
15 chiller technology. And yet nobody seems to be looking at that
16 direction. They want to rob Peter to pay Paul.

17 We need leaders like you, Mr. Barnes. Step up.
18 Look, see what's -- this is an unwanted project. There's
19 nobody here waiving signs saying, "Yeah, baby, we want the
20 thermal curtain." No. It's a gamble. It's a gamble on
21 technology that we're not sure will even work. I'm not willing
22 to take that gamble. We don't want that here. I don't want to
23 get emotional about it, but, you know, it's not a good idea.

24 The amount of benefit and the amount of cost that's
25 going into this, what we might or maybe achieve is very, very

1 minimal.

2 So, I stand here on behalf of the Almanor Fishing
3 Association, and everybody else in this room, to say we don't
4 want this, and we'd rather look for some sort of alternative or
5 scrap this whole thing altogether.

6 And thank you very much.

7

8 --o0o--

9

10 **WES SCOTT:** Tough act to follow. A lot of you know
11 me. My name is Wes Scott. I'm a seasonal employee with the
12 Plumas County Sheriff's, boat parole officer. I too spend a
13 lot of time on Lake Almanor and Butt Valley Reservoir.

14 I have very strong feelings about these projects
15 that are being proposed. I do not have comments put together,
16 but I did bother to read your executive summary. And there's
17 some problems that I found in it.

18 Something very vague comes out in the first page,
19 let me quote it:

20 "The State Water Board must also insure that the
21 project operations including any water quality
22 measures designed to protect the beneficial uses in
23 the North Forth of the Feather River will not
24 necessarily affect water quality in Lake Almanor."

25 How can you qualitatively state that. There's no

1 measurement for that. Okay, don't like that one.

2 Second, the T-shaped curtain, this is, that would
3 affect flow at the spillway at the Butt Lake Dam, the
4 reservoir's capacity is exceeded, which has never occurred, is
5 a false statement. This spillway in Butt Lake has spilled
6 water in 1984; not since it's been rebuilt. Believe me, I know
7 my Butt Valley history.

8 Okay. The biggest problem I have with this entire
9 document, let me look here. The mitigations were mentioned for
10 Almanor. But -- and that was water temperature monitoring and
11 replacement of cold water fish during low water levels, right?

12 No such mitigations are mentioned for Butt Valley
13 Reservoir, none. It says, "Implementation of the project would
14 alter aquatic habitat conditions in Butt Valley Reservoir less
15 than significant." Not going to monitor it, unacceptable.

16 That's it for me.

17

18 --o0o--

19

20 **CHRIS MAYES:** Thank you. My name is Chris Mayes,
21 M-a-y-e-s. Somebody called me Chris Mayer earlier today too,
22 so that's fine.

23 First off, I'd like to thank Plumas County and the
24 Water Board and P.G.& E. for hosting this meeting and providing
25 the opportunity for verbal comments.

1 First off, I'm not thoroughly familiar with the
2 entire CEQA process, but one of the main things that I saw in
3 the draft EIR was that there was no section in the report
4 looking at the potential impacts to local economies.

5 And I did spend a lot of time reading the water
6 quality sections and the fish sections of the EIR and looking
7 at the potential effects of alternatives one and two.

8 It is stated that under alternative one, um, they
9 would expect a reduction in the cold water habitat in the lake
10 by about 4.96 percent, so about five percent. And they do say
11 in the EIR that this would be a significant impact without
12 mitigation.

13 Now, the mitigation feature that is presented in the
14 EIR to make this a less than significant impact is to augment
15 cold water stocking of trout and probably salmon too.

16 Looking at this from an economical standpoint, I
17 grew up in this area, and in the summertime we get a lot of
18 people coming up, jetskiing, waterskiing, all that, but in
19 those shoulder seasons, in the spring and the fall, the vast
20 majority of the people who come up to this area from out of the
21 area are anglers. They're fisherman. They come up, and they
22 take their boats, might come up for a week, rent a cabin at
23 Knotty Pine Resort for a week, go fishing.

24 One of the reasons they come up here is because this
25 is one of the best fishing lakes for trout, both Rainbow Trout

1 and Brown Trout. The average size is much greater than what
2 you would find in other lakes in California. The fish are
3 fully finned. They are beautiful. I have a lot of pictures I
4 could even send you. I'm sure a lot of people in this room
5 could have pictures to send as well.

6 Now, granted the lake is stocked quite a bit by both
7 California Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Almanor
8 Fishing Association and their net pen project.

9 The reason these fish look so great and they get so
10 large is because they're given time to residualize in the lake,
11 for at least a couple years.

12 So when CDFW comes in and they dump in some trucks
13 of trout, they may have the rounded fins and discoloration.
14 They're about eleven to twelve inches long, on average.
15 They're given a couple years to acclimate to the lake with a
16 healthy diet of wild insects and the pond smull, which I know
17 are not native in the lake. They end up developing. They are
18 fins all the way, fully, and they look beautiful, really. You
19 wouldn't be able to tell, looking from one fish that was
20 stocked two years ago and another fish that was a truly wild
21 fish, you wouldn't be able to tell the difference.

22 Um, if we have a series of critically dry water
23 years, like we have in these last few years, using this
24 mitigation measure of just stocking more trout into the lake, I
25 don't think many of those people coming from out of the area

1 are going to want to drive all the way up here to catch eleven,
2 twelve-inch trout.

3 We're already, essentially, acknowledging that we're
4 going to be seeing some significant die-offs of trout. As they
5 gather around the spring area, there's not enough food to
6 supply all those fish, catch and release mortalities increase
7 in those warm months, and not to mention harvest as well.

8 When you're taking away those big beautifully finned
9 fish, we're taking away the money that this local area is
10 receiving during those shoulder seasons in the spring and the
11 fall.

12 And like I mentioned earlier, I grew up in this
13 area. I've seen the town of Chester. I've seen Prattville,
14 Canyon Dam, Hamilton Branch go through many ups and downs. The
15 economic recession that hit this country severely impacted this
16 area. And I don't believe this area has recovered, maybe a
17 little bit, but it's definitely nowhere near what I remember.

18 This local economy is essentially hanging by a
19 thread. It needs every dollar that it can get coming in from
20 out of the area to sustain it in some way.

21 And I don't believe people are going to want to come
22 up here and catch a little eleven, twelve-inch round-tailed
23 trout.

24 Thank you very much.

25 --o0o--

1 **ERIC RUDGERS:** Hi, my name is Eric Rudgers, E-r-i-c,
2 R-u-d-g-e-r-s.

3 I've been coming up here for over 50 years. I've
4 been a full-time member, or full-time resident for 17.

5 I'm involved with Ducks Unlimited, I'm regional vice
6 president, just retired for 40 years. I am a Plumas County
7 Fish and Game Commissioner for multiple years. And I'm vice
8 president of the Almanor Fishing Association.

9 I think I know a little bit about conservation, at
10 least that's what my heart is. I know the difference between
11 right and wrong.

12 This is wrong. This is wrong.

13 I've been involved with the -- when this first
14 started, years and years ago, with Bill, and when we, what
15 we're hearing now is a lot different than what we heard before.

16 Um, we talked earlier, years ago, about planting
17 trees around the stream, cooling the stream that way. I don't
18 hear anything about that anymore.

19 Alls I want to say is I'm representing Almanor
20 Fishing Association. We have a lot of members. We just are
21 not happy with this. And you won't need your card, I'm done.

22 --o0o--

23
24 **JOHN CHELI:** Hi, I'm John Cheli, C-h-e-l-i.

25 Just a couple things. Almost everything that has

1 been said here tonight is true.

2 One of the big comments I have is that I've fished
3 the Feather River for over 60 years, I can go down there right
4 now and catch 21-inch Rainbows. So I don't know what that
5 improvement is going to do.

6 I can guarantee you, if you lower that temperature
7 from 20 to 19 degrees Celsius during summer months that the
8 fishing is just going to improve that much. It's just not.
9 There's a lot of junk fish down there. You have to catch a
10 hundred of those before you catch a trout. But if you lower
11 that temperature one degree, they're still going to be there.
12 They're still going to be there.

13 It's not like in Lake Shasta where you could draw
14 water from a thousand feet down. You're drawing water from
15 Lake Almanor which is probably averages 35 feet overall.

16 Just a couple other comments that concern me. As I
17 -- I have three daughters that live up here, and one of them
18 runs the campground at Prattville. And everyone of those
19 people in that campground come here to fish. And if the
20 fishing is destroyed in Lake Almanor, they're shutting down.

21 Okay. I have another son-in-law, that is a
22 carpenter. And if people decide it's not a good place to come
23 up and live, they're not going to be any building. No
24 building, no business, he's out of a job.

25 And also, the same son-in-law is a fishing guide on

1 Lake Almanor. It's the same thing. Clients aren't going to
2 come up and spend their money to fish in a lake that has
3 12-inch trout.

4 For those reasons, it's not a very good idea. And
5 the one gentleman mentioned swimmers itch. Five of my grand-
6 children up here had swimmers itch. Okay. And that's going to
7 get worse if the lake gets polluted. And I don't know about
8 the cycle and everything that happens, but they've all had it.
9 It's going to get worse if the cold water is taken out.

10 And I had 12 or 13, list of things I wanted to say,
11 but they've pretty much all been said. I'm not going to repeat
12 them.

13 I think the curtain, in my eyes is just -- I'm a
14 retired biology teacher, I studied ecology here. I came up
15 here to fish and enjoy the area, and it's been fantastic. And
16 this is not a good idea.

17

18 --o0o--

19

20 **WENDI DURKIN:** Wendi Durkin, Save Lake Almanor.

21 Just very briefly, Save Lake Almanor's position is
22 not anti thermal curtain. It's anti removal of the cold water
23 from Lake Almanor. We done want any cold water being taken
24 from Almanor and shipped downstream forty miles to not be able
25 to accomplish the temperatures that you're trying to reach.

1 So it's not just a thermal curtain, it's also the
2 repurposing of the Canyon Dam outlet. They want to start
3 taking the coldest water out of the bottom outlet of Canyon
4 Dam, and then possibly install the thermal curtains.

5 The Butt Lake Reservoir, I don't think has been
6 adequately recognized in your EIR. Right now, the trophy fish
7 that piled up there are feeding off what's called Wakasaki.
8 And the thermal curtain at Prattville will block the Wakasaki
9 from coming into the powerhouse, so that fishery would be
10 completely dead. And I don't think that's being adequately
11 addressed here.

12 The talking point that has always been, since 1972,
13 when this really all started with the Rock Creek Cresta
14 relicensing, is that the State Water Board would look at
15 reasonable measures.

16 It is not reasonable to destroy Lake Almanor and
17 Butt Valley Reservoir and this community to not accomplish your
18 temperatures goals downstream. So is not a drop of our cold
19 water.

20
21 --o0o--

22
23 **LORI SIMPSON:** Hi, name is Lori Simpson, Plumas
24 County Supervisor District Four.

25 I'm here today to speak as an individual. The

1 Plumas County Board of Supervisors will be submitting comments
2 as a Board, but my comments are here as my own individual
3 comments.

4 I'm opposed to both alternatives in the draft EIR
5 that include the installation of thermal curtains and the
6 release of cold water.

7 I believe that will harm the fish in Lake Almanor
8 and harm also the fish in, in Butte Lake -- sorry, Butt Lake.
9 I have that lake, too. I have a lake in my area, Bucks Lake.

10 So anyway, um, Lake Almanor is the biggest lake in
11 Plumas County. What happens here affects our whole county.
12 This is one of the biggest economic engines in Plumas County
13 with fishing and recreation.

14 I have a lot of concerns, and they've all been
15 addressed here. I won't take much time. Concerns about the
16 need for costs estimates of a cost benefit analysis.

17 I have concerns about the need for current
18 scientific data about the conditions considering we have a
19 drought and climate change.

20 I have concerns about economic impacts. Um, as a
21 County supervisor, I just lived through the most horrendous
22 downturn of the economy probably Plumas County has ever had.

23 I grew up here. I've lived here since I was eight
24 years old. And I remember coming up, I moved up here from
25 Southern California. My dad got a job with the Plumas County

1 Sheriff's Office. And one of the places we first came was Lake
2 Almanor. And that stays in my head, as a kid. So, I have some
3 connections about the health of Lake Almanor.

4 And I'm concerned about the environmental health of
5 both Butte and Lake Almanor, the cultural resources, the
6 impacts, water quality and quantity, the aesthetic features.
7 So I really urge -- and I thank you for having this meeting and
8 Supervisor Thrall for setting it up, P.G. & E., State Water
9 Board.

10 State water Board, I just ask that you look at other
11 alternatives, and please listen to the people who live here.

12 Thank you.

13

14 --o0o--

15

16 **AARON SEANDEL:** Whoever or whatever.

17 My name is Aaron Seandel, S-e-a-n-d-e-l. Okay.

18 I'm a long-time resident here, having first visited
19 the area in 1972. We've lived here, full-time, since 1994 and
20 prior to that on a part-time basis each year.

21 I've been a member of the Lake Almanor Water Quality
22 Committee since 1993, and since 1996, I've been chairman of the
23 Lake Almanor Water Quality subcommittee.

24 We have sent out reports on an annual basis to both
25 the County and to P.G. & E., and unfortunately to the State

1 Water Board because if the State Water Board read our reports,
2 they would know that the idea that they're fostering right now
3 is inane.

4 There are records of the lake since 1970; for those
5 who need to do some research, go to the DWR website, and you'll
6 see records of the lake, the health of the lake, the
7 temperature of the lake, and all the constituents that make up
8 the lake. You'll see those in very clear order and those will
9 reinforce my comments earlier about the ideas that are being
10 put forth here being not too wise.

11 2014 was a dry year. I'll give you an example: The
12 physical data shows that there were higher water temperatures
13 this year and less dissolved oxygen in the epilimnion than in
14 the previous five years, dissolved oxygen in the metalimnion
15 which is the middle layer of the lake, dropped to zero.

16 And the hypolimnion was devoid of oxygen earlier in
17 the year at Lake Almanor One, which is right by Canyon Dam, and
18 Lake Almanor Two, which is the east lobe of Lake Almanor.

19 I can cite some -- some data about dissolved oxygen
20 because you all know that dissolved oxygen is imperative for
21 the health of the fish. If you look at -- I'm only going to
22 cite Lake Almanor One, that's by Canyon Dam, because that's the
23 area you're looking at. In July 7th of 2013 at 12 -- at
24 13 meters deep, that's roughly 40 feet, the dissolved oxygen
25 was 4.5; at 15 feet, it was 2.8; at 16 feet, it was 1.4; at

1 18 feet, it was 1.2; at 20 feet, it was .9; at 22 feet, it was
2 .8; at 24 meters, it was .6.

3 Now you're talking about taking cold water from --
4 from Canyon Dam in the month of July where dissolved oxygen is
5 already at a -- at a critical stage and sending it downstream.

6 What happens to the fish that remain up here? And
7 what happens to the fisherman and all of the economic and all
8 of its social issues that have been raised? I won't go into
9 that. I think the people before me have said it very, very
10 well.

11 I just want to go through -- just, I'll give you the
12 information in for September -- September of 2013. At
13 11 meters which is roughly 33 feet, the dissolved oxygen was
14 4.3; at 12 meters, that's 36 feet, it was 1.1; at 13 meters, it
15 was .3; at 14 meters, it was .1; at 16 meters, it's .1; at
16 18 meters, it is .05; at 20 meters, it's .04. And it gets
17 lower than that. Okay. You're getting the picture, I think.

18 All right. Now for the current year, for the
19 current year, the recent sampling that's been done in
20 cooperation with the OWR and Dr. Johnson, it shows that the
21 dissolved oxygen on July 21st, at 11 meters was 5.1; 3.4 at
22 12 meters, 2.4 at 13 meters, 1.6, 1.1, and on, and on, and on.
23 I'm trying to make a point, and I see you shaking your head. I
24 think you understand what I'm saying.

25 Okay. There are -- it is very clear to me for being

1 associated with Water Quality Committee, that the trends --
2 that there are trends in the lake, that the water quality is
3 declining. The past two years have only shown 53 percent water
4 -- good water quality in the lake, a level to which the lake is
5 only dipped to five other times in the roughly 30 years of
6 monitoring that we've had.

7 These findings that suggest that these periods of --
8 of poor water quality are especially stressful on salmonoids.
9 Adequate dissolved oxygen is necessary for good water quality.
10 We've been through that, so I won't go into that. The lower
11 the concentration, the greater the stress.

12 I would conclude by -- am I close to three?

13 MR. BARNES: Yeah.

14 AARON SEANDEL: Well, I've got eleven questions.
15 Real quick? And some of these have been raised before.

16 I read quite frequently the term, no significant
17 impact. What's that mean?

18 Term used throughout the EIR. How can it not be
19 significant if the recommendation is to take 250 cubic feet per
20 second through the lower gate, off the dam, during the warmest
21 months of the year when the cold water pool is seven percent
22 total volume of the lake. No significant impact? I would
23 disagree.

24 What are the standards that are -- govern the
25 release of the 250 CFS?

1 When does it start?

2 When does it stop?

3 Who monitors it?

4 What does the temperature have to be downstream?

5 What does the temperature of the lake have to be in
6 order to take the water? These questions aren't answered, and
7 they need to be answered.

8 What considered -- I'm skipping question three
9 because it talks about the potential economic impact.

10 I have a question about -- I have a question about
11 Rock Creek Cresta. Has there ever been a fish kill at Rock
12 Creek Cresta? I don't think so. Nobody has ever reported it.

13 And that's the area that we're trying to add one
14 degree centigrade -- one degree centigrade of cold water? So
15 would you kindly get me the answer to that question?

16 I'm sorry.

17 During our 2105 deliberations, we talked about -- in
18 the settlement agreement, they talked much reasonable efforts
19 to achieve certain goals. I don't think we're on that path at
20 this point in time.

21 How do you justify possibly damaging two fisheries
22 to provide possible temperature improvement 35 miles
23 downstream? Is 20 degrees Celsius a mandated requirement for
24 the health of the cold water fish, or is it a desirable one,
25 it's one that we should try to achieve, and whenever possible

1 and reasonable.

2 How current is the data for your recommendation?
3 We've gone through that. I believe it's old and it's dated.

4 What impact will these -- will these recommendations
5 have on the 303 -- 303-D listing for mercury and the TMDL, the
6 total maximum daily load for setting by 2021? What impact will
7 that have?

8 And the building of the curtain could possibly stir
9 up the metal mercury that is found on the -- on the, excuse me
10 -- lake bottom.

11 Um, estimates of 2004, and I think it's my good
12 friend Tom Jereb was the one that gave it to us, that one
13 thermal curtain would cost \$54 million without any additional
14 maintenance costs per year.

15 I don't think I'm too far off, at that time it was
16 that number. Tom, you can go to sleep tonight, don't worry
17 about it. But I think you gave it to me.

18 MR. JEREB: You're close.

19 AARON SEANDEL: Okay, that's good. Has anybody
20 included a cost benefit analysis on these proposed solutions?
21 You know, as I said earlier, we share our information with
22 P.G.& E., we share it with the County, we share it with the
23 community, we'd love to share it with you so you can find out
24 what is really happening up here at the lake.

25 Thank you very much.

1 --o0o--

2
3 **DAVE STEINDORF:** Hi, name is Dave Steindorf,
4 D-a-v-e, S-t-e-i-n-d-o-r-f. And I'm with American White Water.

5 About 15 years ago, I started the relicensing
6 process for this project with Tom Jereb who's up here, Bill
7 Dennison and a few other survivors to that. It was five years,
8 through that process, we were able to develop what I think was
9 a very good robust settlement agreement for this project. But
10 it was clear at that time, that that settlement agreement did
11 not cover the issues regarding water temperature. And we all
12 knew that at that time. And I think that was unfortunate.

13 You know, almost ten years ago, in this very same
14 room, I was at a meeting hosted by the State Water Board,
15 discussing the same topic. And at that meeting I actually
16 said, um, I agree with what most people, that public
17 participation can be a great thing. But what I see here is a
18 train wreck. What I didn't realize is I was about to witness
19 probably the definition of a slow-motion train wreck, since
20 it's been going on for about ten years.

21 So I think that what is really driving a lot of the
22 passionate emotions out here today that I see are people having
23 to make this choice between lake recreation and river
24 recreation, and that's as true today as it was ten years ago.

25 And I believe that's a false choice. I do believe

1 that we can have both.

2 I believe that by being able to improve both the
3 river and the lake recreation along with other things, such as
4 white water recreation, we can have an all-of-the-above
5 strategy that works for both. And we'll include a number of
6 things -- ways to do that with -- in our comments.

7 So the question also is going to be asked about why
8 should we make this investment in the North Fork Feather River.
9 P.G. & E. has already stated this project has a significant
10 amount of power that definitely goes to benefit people in
11 Northern California. That's true.

12 But I also think that that power production has come
13 at a disproportional cost for the people of both Plumas and
14 Butte County. Absent the hydropower project, the cold high
15 flows that existed in the Feather River, were in fact probably
16 the best trout fishery in California, those flows also which
17 would rarely hit below a thousand CFS.

18 If they continue today, this would be the premier
19 white water recreation destination on the West Coast, without a
20 doubt.

21 So to be clear, I don't support removing the
22 project. I like my life to go on. That's a nice thing. But
23 we do feel like this effort is well worth it to find a way to
24 improve both the fishery in the river, protect the lake
25 fishery, and provide for those other recreational components

1 that both -- the citizens of both of Butte County and Plumas
2 County deserve.

3 Thank you.

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5 --o0o--

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7 **KEN WILSON, SR.:** Thank you, members of the Board.
8 My name is Kenneth Wilson, Sr.. I make that distinction
9 because I represent the family of Wilsons -- no relation to the
10 gentleman at the table, I don't think.

11 But, my family has been in business and lived at
12 Prattville for 87 years, and continuously operated a business
13 successfully for 87 years.

14 I had a lot of the comments to make about the EIR.
15 I won't do that. Um, I will tell you that one hat that I wore
16 for 40 years was an environment lawyer with the firm Meyers,
17 Nave, Riback, Silver and Wilson. We represented over 30
18 cities. I have reviewed over probably a hundred EIRs. This
19 one, in all due respect, Peter, is a disaster.

20 In my opinion, it violates both the letter of the
21 law and the spirit of intent of CEQA.

22 It proposes alternatives that are absolutely
23 ludicrous, in proportion to the result and the proposed
24 benefit. It just doesn't work out.

25 I would join on behalf of my family, which is the

1 fifth generation, and my son and his wife who operate it, my
2 stepmother, Carol, who's run Carol's Cafe at Prattville -- I
3 notice most of the people at that table, or many of them, have
4 eaten there -- economically, we'll be out of business, the
5 family, after 87 years, will end.

6 There is no way, one of the gentleman said, that
7 this community strives basically to make its living in six
8 months. That's very unique. It's very difficult.

9 The thing about the lake and the benefit to the
10 community is that since my grandfather founded Prattville in
11 1923, it must be remembered that it is not a lake. It is a
12 reservoir, a man-made reservoir, at one point the largest
13 man-made reservoir in the United States.

14 I think P.G.& E. for the most part for 87 years or
15 90 years, has done a yeoman's job of trying to manage it and
16 balance it with the community interests that we have here.

17 But I think they are being driven by interests here
18 for the licensing project that has pushed the CEQA processes
19 clear out of proportion. And one -- it all ends if either of
20 the proposals or alternatives are chosen as recommended.

21 And the position is taken that there is no
22 significant impact. I can't believe that. But, either
23 alternative that takes the cold water off this lake reservoir
24 will undo such a delicate balance that there will be no going
25 back and restoring it later.

1 Now if CEQA was designed to protect the environment,
2 it's failed. It has failed under this proposal. Um, I think
3 -- I would join, frankly, specifically, with Assemblyman
4 Gallagher, Neilson, Congressman LaMalfa, Bill Dennison and
5 Mr. Walters from the Cronic firm, and I would adapt their --
6 and adopt their challenges to the CEQA documents.

7 I never thought I'd say that about the Cronic
8 Moskovitz Firm, because they were our biggest competitor when I
9 was in practice, but I think they've done a yeoman's job in
10 trying to deliver some of the weaknesses of this document with
11 the time allotted. So, please reconsider this. And thank you
12 for your time.

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14 --o0o--

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16 **ROBERT MacARTHUR:** Robert MacArthur,
17 M-a-c-A-r-t-h-u-r.

18 And comment on the -- the amount of time the public
19 has to respond to this is way short.

20 One thing I've noticed, I think the State Water
21 Board is guilty of not notifying the public. Mr. Thoma was
22 talking about P.G. & E. may have to do a rate increase. The
23 Water Board has not notified the rate payers that there's a
24 potential of their rates increasing.

25 And I can sympathize with P.G.& E. having to go to

1 the California Public Utilities Commission trying to justify a
2 rate increase. That's an expensive time-consuming project. I
3 work for a utility, not P.G.& E., and it's not a fun project.

4 One of the questions I have, or several questions is
5 if you, the Water Board, ignores all this and we do the
6 increase water flows or you do the thermal curtain, what is in
7 place to say, it's not working? We're going to undo -- trying
8 to put Humpty-Dumpty back together again. What's the
9 timeframe? What's your plan for looking at this and notifying
10 the public? It seems like all this is in the dark. It's just
11 going to be done and/or do you just, "Well, it's not my
12 problem, that's another agency." And you just walk away, and
13 you're not doing the public a favor.

14 Thank you.

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16 --o0o--

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18 **TOM MASON:** Hi, Tom Mason, resident, M-a-s-o-n.

19 So, in 2004, we came up here for the first time from
20 the Bay Area and we saw a house and we bought it that week
21 because it was so beautiful.

22 And I'm not the fisherman in the family, my wife is
23 the fisherman. But I enjoy getting out on the lake with my
24 kids and my grandchildren. And I enjoy getting out on the
25 boat. And I enjoy just looking at it.

1 One of the big questions, when you get to that
2 250 cubic feet per second is, to me, not so much the
3 temperature or the oxygen or all of the things I've heard
4 today, but how high is the lake going to be? What's the impact
5 on the lake level of your sucking water out at the -- which is
6 a rate which is, I understand, is substantially more than it
7 currently is?

8 So through those summer months, which is when my
9 family is up here trying to use that lake, you're talking about
10 the lake going down faster, I think, which is a negative.

11 The other thought I had was that just several weeks
12 ago, maybe a month or two ago, Congress passed a new budget.
13 And when they put that budget in place, as a part of it, they
14 recognized global warming was occurring. So, if you say, okay,
15 global warming by our Congress is now a recognized fact, how
16 has your EIR looked at the fact that since 1914, or whenever
17 your time period starts, you've had global warming through
18 today? And you say you're looking at a normal year, but is
19 that normal year starting in two -- in 1914, and have we
20 already seen enough global warming to make up for the degree
21 difference that you're trying to make up for by putting water
22 out of Lake Almanor into the river.

23 So I'm just wondering if the FERC and the State
24 organization looking at these permitting processes are
25 incorporating the Congressional action into their thinking?

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Thank you.

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NANCY FOOTE: Thank you. I'm name Nancy Foote,
F-o-o-t-e. Thank you for the opportunity to speak.

I'm going to bring up something that hasn't been
brought up. Everyone here agrees that the thermal curtain is a
folly, at worst. There must be a reason why the State Water
Board is for it.

I would like us to hire an investigator and find out
who on the Water Board is going to benefit from this work.

--o0o--

ALAN DUBROFF: Good evening. Thank YOU for the
opportunity to speak. My name is Alan Dubroff, A-l-a-n,
D-u-b-r-o-f-f.

I'm the general manager of the Lake Almanor Country
Club. I'm here representing my Board of Directors which in
turn represents 1,831 homeowners on the peninsula in Lake
Almanor.

A group of dedicated volunteers have gotten together
and drafted a letter that will be sending to Peter. And I
wanted to take the opportunity to read that letter for the

1 record:

2 "Dear Mr. Barnes,

3 "Please accept this letter on behalf of the Lake
4 Almanor Country Club Board of Directors. We represent
5 1,831 home owners and property owners that live on the
6 Lake Almanor Peninsula.

7 "We thank you for providing us the opportunity to
8 provide our feedback on the above mentioned project.
9 Our concern is that alternatives one and two will have
10 a devastating, negative impact on our community, the
11 surrounding communities, the local economy and our
12 environment.

13 "Our main issue with the draft EIR: We find very
14 little in the report regarding impacts this project
15 and the proposed alternatives will have on our
16 quality of life.

17 "We strongly disagree with the statement that
18 increasing the water temperature of Lake Almanor will
19 not have a substantial impact. We live here, and our
20 personal experience has been contrary to your
21 findings.

22 "With several years of drought, we have seen
23 firsthand the negative effects that increase in water
24 temperature has on the lake. We're experiencing
25 more algae than in the past which in turn reduces the

1 clarity of the lake. We fear that any activity
2 that further reduces the cold water in the lake" --
3 excuse me -- "will greatly reduce the cold water fisheries
4 that have made Lake Almanor one of the best fishing
5 destinations in the State of California.

6 "Our observations are supported by data in the final
7 draft of the Lake Almanor Water Quality Report 2015.
8 Increased water temperatures, increased algae and
9 reduced fisheries will have a negative impact on
10 local economy, which is dependent on tourism and
11 already suffering.

12 We -- "When we considered all the negative impacts
13 this project will have on our local economy and
14 environment, we wonder, what will be the impact on the
15 quality of our life and our property values. Will
16 more local businesses close? Will we lose needed
17 services such as our hospital as a result of a
18 worsening local economy? Will
19 we lose the one thing that has brought us all here, the
20 enjoyment of lake Almanor?

21 "In conclusion, we're opposed to Alternatives No.
22 One and Two as described in the draft EIR. And we
23 believe that pursuing these alternatives is
24 unreasonable and reckless.

25 "We urge the Board to only consider the P.G.& E.

1 Project as submitted and approved in the settlement
2 agreement of April 22, 2004, without the additional
3 release of cold water from Lake Almanor."

4 Thank you.

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MICHAEL JACKSON: My name is Michael Jackson. I'm a
9 water rights lawyer for environmental groups around the State.

10 I heard two things that I thought -- I live in
11 Quincy, so I've been coming to these meetings from the start.
12 Um, I heard two things that I thought were positive.

13 First, I thought I heard Tom Jereb say that it was
14 no longer P.G. & E.'s position that they wanted the temperature
15 curtain. I heard Alvin Thoma say that it was no longer P.G. &
16 E.'s position that they wanted the temperature curtain. I
17 think that's a very important thing for this audience to leave
18 hearing.

19 Um, I -- the State Water Board has no choice but to
20 study that alternative, because it was part of the original
21 program that they're sort of -- that we're all sort of stuck
22 with after 10 or 15 years, and we've got to go through this
23 process to try to determine whether or not we're going to get
24 rid of that for good. And so I see that as a productive thing.

25 The second thing that I heard that I thought was

1 quite interesting is that there's a lot of people in this room
2 who seem to believe that the -- the 303-D listing doesn't
3 happen on every river in California, um, and this water quality
4 process happens as well. And all of this stuff has got to be
5 integrated throughout the West.

6 It's not -- it's particularly not unusual when for
7 five hours today, I was working on how to respond to the fact
8 that there's not enough water in any lake anywhere in
9 California to keep the water rights of everybody who wants
10 water going.

11 And in fact, in trying to do that, the Water Board
12 cut, evidently, environmental corners last year, and we lost
13 95 percent of the winter run salmon at Lake Shasta because the
14 bureau lost control of the temperature.

15 What they're worried about is that that's happening
16 in most rivers in California even when we're not in droughts.
17 So this is not going to be an easy thing for anybody to put
18 aside.

19 I'm here today representing a group called the
20 Environmental Water Caucus which is 42 environmental
21 organizations from around California in pretty much every
22 drainage in California.

23 Um, I heard some things from the audience that I
24 thoroughly agree with. Lake Almanor is -- a lot of these
25 groups are fishermen, fly fishermen, bait fishermen, ocean

1 fishermen. And I heard a lot of things from the audience about
2 the fact would people come here to fish. Well, all of the
3 people in the organizations that I work with and represent know
4 that Lake Almanor is a magnificent fishery. So they're truly
5 interested in keeping what we have. As the temperature goes
6 up, as the demands get bigger, as everybody wants their own
7 special interest in, including me and my friends.

8 I live in Quincy and so to me the -- Almanor is a
9 place that I come five or six times a year, if you don't count
10 Bailey Creek, which I come to every week -- I may not now,
11 won't be able to get in -- we got lots of golf courses in the
12 southern part of the County.

13 The thing that I would like to leave you with is the
14 people of California are not going to go away. And unless --
15 you know, if you find a solution that works, we all want to
16 work together.

17 But there are dedicated people, I mean offshore
18 fisherman just lost their jobs because of a mistake made in an
19 attempt not to meet the temperature standards.

20 So, this is -- you've done a wonderful job over the
21 last ten years. Bill's done a wonderful job. Erin's done a
22 wonderful job. Dick Daniels knows more about fish than almost
23 anybody in the State and always has -- even if we haven't been
24 on the same side all the time -- but it is important that --
25 you want the microphone, Dick?

1 It is important that, that you know -- since I know
2 all five Board members, and I've worked with them for years,
3 they're not trying to hurt you. They're trying to deal with
4 the fact that this kind of thing is happening everywhere at
5 once.

6 Now, it looks like, on the records from -- from the
7 Bureau of Reclamation this morning there is now no place north
8 of Sacramento who is not above average in rainfall. We may
9 come out of this drought soon. We may come out of this drought
10 before this moving target over the last ten years gets
11 resolved. There is never a time in which the data is perfect.

12 So, um, I'd just like to say, and we will be -- lots
13 of people will be filing. But what you'll find in the filing
14 is we don't want the temperature curtain. No one wants the
15 temperature curtain that I've talked to, and I'm sure glad to
16 know that you guys have joined.

17 The second thing about it is, um, I know that
18 there's cold water that is not available for the lake fishery.
19 There's about 70 thousand acre feet, last time I looked. It's
20 got no oxygen in it. And so as you get deeper and deeper you
21 get less and less oxygen to the point that the cold-water fish
22 can't go down into that water.

23 So, um, the -- I think the idea of the Water Board
24 is a productive one which is to start the releases using the
25 deoxygenated water. Because ten feet after it comes out of the

1 pipe on the other side, bam, it's got oxygen -- maybe a hundred
2 feet, but it's in that number.

3 Whether or not that's going to suck the water that
4 your fish -- cold-water fish are using now out with it depends
5 on how much you put down. So this 250 CFS doesn't probably cut
6 it. But you don't know. So we should start there.

7 So, Peter, I make my living in forcing people to do
8 new environmental documents, and then they do, and then I get
9 beat. So, I mean, it's just procedure. The decisions are made
10 on the substance of the laws the way the American people have
11 established them. And they say that cold-water fisheries ought
12 to be in native salmon habitat, whether or not there's a dam in
13 the way.

14 Now, I've been trying for a long time to get fish
15 above dams, because they're dying on the floor of the valley,
16 and they can't get home.

17 And so, there are Indian tribes, fishing groups,
18 environmental groups, big and small, um, and they're interested
19 in this project. But they're also interested in these people
20 and their survival.

21 And so we will be willing, after the dust stops, to
22 work with anybody. I'd like to congratulate the County for the
23 work they've done over the last ten years through all of the
24 various people. And I'd also like to say that I do intend to
25 stay in the County, no matter how it works out.

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BARBARA MacARTHUR: For the sake of brevity, I'm putting mine in writing.

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BOB ORANGE: Hello, my name is Bob Orange. I retired as a State Fish and Game Warden after 31 years service. My father was a Fish and Game warden for 37 years, majority of those years here in Plumas County. The last 22 years that I worked, I covered Lake Almanor and I also worked Rock Creek Cresta Section of the Feather River.

I kind of want to cut to the chase a little bit, apply a little common sense. The whole idea of the thermal curtain is to increase the trout, the number of the trout in the lower section of the Feather River. They're agreed on that, we want to have more trout. So the vision is families, people going down there filling their creels with trout, bringing more fish home, all that kind of stuff.

Well, California Administrative Code Title 14, Section 7.50(b), Section 68.2, Feather River North Fork from Belden Bridge downstream to Cresta Powerhouse, including the reservoirs, if you look on that map over there (indicating) that's a 26 mile section of the river that we're talking about.

1 Trout limit, zero. You can't keep the trout down
2 there.

3 So any additional steps that you're going to gain by
4 having cold water down, if the person catches a trout, they're
5 going to get a ticket from the local game warden. Makes no
6 sense.

7 I was the person enforcing that law. Let me tell
8 you that was bad, really bad.

9 I worked Lake Tahoe. I worked Oroville. I worked
10 Shasta. I worked all over the state of California. I will say
11 this unequivocally, Lake Almanor has got the best cold-water
12 fisheries, and the best warm-water fisheries of any lake in the
13 State of California, bar none.

14 It's very delicate. I could go out on the lake and
15 work. I could check bass fishermen, I check trout fishermen.
16 We had a very good mix.

17 In this community is severely -- it's in their soul,
18 it's in their spirit to do good work around here. The local
19 high school here has got the only fish trout hatchery in
20 California. They raise 40,000 trout a year to put in Lake
21 Almanor. You got Almanor Fishing Association, they raise
22 50,000 trout in a cage program, no place else in the state of
23 California. You have Bass Fishermen Christmas Tree Program,
24 Lake Almanor Bass Fishermen Association. It is a tremendous
25 fishery.

1 And any changes -- having a cold water curtain,
2 thermal curtain, could change that, could really screw it up.
3 I mean screw it up. On any given day, during the summer you're
4 going to have at least 1100 boats on Lake Almanor, people
5 fishing cold water and warm water.

6 And one comment here, yeah, a person asked if there
7 was any fish kills because of warm water down the Canyon?
8 Forty-two years extended service between my dad and myself, we
9 never had a trout kill because of warm water in the lower
10 Feather River. Never happened. It didn't happen.

11 So the other thing is, why, how did this all come
12 about in the very, very beginning? I was a past president of
13 the Fish and Game Warden Association for California the latter
14 part of my career. How did this start? Who said we need to
15 have cold water down the canyon?

16 A lot of people probably don't know this, or
17 whatever, but there was one representative, I hate to say it,
18 from the California Department of Fish and Game that was on the
19 FERC 2105 committee at the time. He had made the
20 recommendation to have the cold down there. That got put into
21 it. Was it run by the local game wardens, by the local
22 fisheries biologists, by the California Department of Fish and
23 Game? No. Either Ron Dakota and the other people, one person
24 in Sacramento put it in there unbeknownst to other people. It
25 got put in there. Shortly thereafter, he retired and went to

1 work for the special interest that would basically benefit from
2 having that down there.

3 So, where did it all start? Hey, I'm retired. I'm
4 not employed by the Department of Fish and Game anymore. I'm
5 on the County Fish and Game Commission. So you can't take one
6 biologist's recommendation and ruin all these people's careers
7 and families and these whole fisheries we got around here.
8 Can't happen.

9 Thank you.

10 You know, if you want to do good, one thing, I'll
11 just say right now, the biggest -- okay, you're -- concentrate
12 on the Zebra Mussel and the Quagga Mussel, be proactive in the
13 community to stop any invasive species from coming in here. We
14 don't have no program happening around here for -- Lake Tahoe's
15 got a great program.

16 A far bigger threat to the fishery downstream, up
17 here, and to the hydroelectric facilities over here is the
18 interjection of Quagga Mussels. Start an inspection program.
19 Be proactive -- if you put just a fraction a of the monies into
20 it, stop this and help the fisheries last a whole lot longer.

21 And thank you for your time. I'm going to give you
22 a copy of these regulations. You could look it up yourself.

23

24 CHRIS SHUTES: Hi, I'm Chris Shutes, S-h-u-t-e-s.
25 I'm with the California Sports Fishing Protection Alliance.

1 I'm here to say we can have a great like and restored river,
2 too. I say restored, because the 700 to 1,000 CRS springs that
3 are now buried under Lake Almanor provide cold water year
4 around before P.G. & E. dams and projects went in.

5 The DEIR two alternatives are non starters. No one
6 supports a thermal curtain. That's not a sufficient range of
7 alternatives.

8 The DEIR doesn't use modeling to show what staff's
9 proposed stand-alone 250 CFS release from Canyon Dam would do
10 to cool the river. It does not show what a stand-alone 600 CFS
11 release from Canyon Dam would do to cool the river.

12 The DEIR doesn't show, doesn't make any
13 recommendations at all to improve the conditions of the Lake
14 Almanor fishery.

15 A lot of people in the past, in scoping ten years
16 ago in this room, talked about lack of dissolved oxygen in Lake
17 Almanor. And we've heard a number of people mention it again
18 today.

19 Mr. Thoma said that a 250 CFS release from Canyon
20 Dam would reduce fish habitat but that's not really accurate
21 because there's no dissolved oxygen at Canyon Dam. The
22 gentleman, Mr. Seandel, I believe his name was, just explained
23 that based on monitoring over many years.

24 We could think of Lake Almanor as two pools with two
25 spigots, a cold pool with a cold spigot at Canyon Dam and a mix

1 temperature pool with a on-demand water heater at Prattville.
2 The water heater is P.G.& E.'s project.

3 The Board needs to deal with the temperatures coming
4 out of P.G.& E.'s project. But at the same time the Board
5 needs to think about how it can mitigate the loss of cold water
6 from Canyon Dam if it releases more water from Canyon Dam. And
7 the way to do is that by oxygenating the anoxic, oxygenless
8 water. That's all right at Canyon Dam. It's a proven
9 technology. It's used in -- at Comanche Dam by East Bay Mud
10 with great effectiveness. It's also used in a number of other
11 reservoirs. It's reasonable.

12 Installation at Comanche Reservoir, which is as
13 large, I believe, as Almanor, was about 1.4 million dollars to
14 install it, and the operating costs are about a \$120,000 a
15 year.

16 So we ought to be looking not just at we can do to
17 save the reservoir and its fishery, but how we can improve it.

18 We need a supplement to the DEIR that looks at some
19 new alternatives; that looks as oxygenation as an alternative;
20 that looks at a 250 CFS release and tells us what it's actually
21 going to do in order to cool the river; what a 600 CFS release
22 is going to do to cool the river; and what a variable release
23 would do.

24 Someone was talking about the fact, you can't -- I
25 think it was Mr. Daniel -- talking about the fact that you

1 can't turn it on or off.

2 Well, if you have a realtime temperature monitoring
3 downstream in the reaches that you need to cool, you could vary
4 the release coming out of Canyon Dam and release what you had
5 to, not simply a fixed number.

6 By the way, the temperatures in the Rock Creek
7 reached -- last year, reached about 23 degrees C. That's 78 or
8 something like. That take kills fish, it just does.

9 And once upon time, the North Fork of the Feather
10 River was a really, really premier trout fishery. There were
11 fishing resorts on it, people came to fish there. We ought to
12 get something back like that, at least have the fishery that
13 provides that opportunity for everybody, for the people of
14 Northern California and the for the people of Plumas County and
15 the people coming up from Butte.

16 So, that's it. Thanks very much. I appreciate the
17 opportunity to comment.

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21 **CHARLES PLOPPER:** I'm Charles Plopper. My comments
22 are going to be very brief.

23 Based on almost 50 years as a scientist focusing on
24 environment issues, I've served on environmental review panels
25 for both the U.S. Government and State.

1 I've reviewed a number of these EIRs before they've
2 been released.

3 No offense, but this EIR, in my view -- I'll keep it
4 very short -- is not scientifically up to standard.

5 And for one thing, the thing that I think
6 Mr. Seandel has already mentioned is that your data for
7 temperature and dissolved oxygen is grossly out of date, and it
8 only includes one site. And there is complete data, excellent
9 data, on three sites. That will give you an idea exactly, for
10 your model, which as a consequence is very deficient, because
11 it doesn't use the data from other sites that is taken at the
12 same time as the data at Canyon Dam. So that's the first
13 concern I have.

14 The other is there's no discussion of -- my view of
15 water quality is not yours -- it's not just temperature and
16 dissolved oxygen, it's also algae and a number of other
17 factors.

18 And you've already heard there are pathogens in this
19 water. There's no discussion of that there at all. What's
20 going to happen if the water changes? That needs to be in your
21 model.

22 Let's see, what else? Oh, there's no discussion of
23 what this impact will be on habitat, food sources for three
24 very important bird species here, bald eagles, osprey and
25 grebe. This is one of the major breeding grebe sites in the

1 country. It's not even mentioned. It needs to be because this
2 is environment impact.

3 Second, is no discussion of the impact of the
4 resident salmonoid populations. You've discussed, well, we'll
5 just put more in. I don't see any data in there that says how
6 you're going to decide, except when they either die or nobody
7 catches any fish. We got a problem now. That is not a
8 scientific approach to an EIR in my opinion.

9 And third, there is no discussion of what the
10 changes you might do with releasing more cold water from this
11 lake on both the -- all the algae populations. And I will
12 point out that there's excellent data available that shows that
13 the algae increase, particularly blue-green algae.

14 I've been a resident here -- well, we got here in
15 1990, been coming here since I'm a little kid. I do not want
16 Almanor turned into Clear Lake, the ugly word. And there's no
17 discussion of that in this material at all.

18 The other thing that's missing, I saw no
19 discussion -- haven't read the entire document -- there's no
20 discussion of the Native American impact, culturally, none.
21 This would not be acceptable.

22 And thank you, that's my comments.

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24 --o0o--

1 **CARLOS ESPANA:** I'll take my wife's place, Susan
2 Espana.

3 My name is Carlos. Carlos Espana, E-s-p-a-n-a. I'm
4 a resident of the Lake Almanor Country Club and also registered
5 geo-technical engineering with the State of California, been in
6 practice for 40 years.

7 I've probably been a part of the geo-technical
8 element of environment impact reports for over fifty to a
9 hundred documents. And on those fifty to hundred documents,
10 once the EIR process gets to this draft stage, at least on my
11 documents, I've never seen a change. Rather, the comments are
12 written down, put in the final in appendix "X" and the process
13 goes through.

14 Even despite all the emotional comments of this
15 group, I have not seen an environment document at the draft
16 stage change, and that's wrong and immoral.

17 What else is wrong and immoral is the
18 recommendations by the State put us in another infinite
19 timeline as to when decisions are going to be made about the
20 thermal curtain.

21 Lastly, what's really wrong and immoral is there are
22 no metrics to tell us, let alone the State, when to install the
23 thermal curtains.

24 So let me back up. The reason I'm saying this is my
25 wife asked me, "What the heck did they say up there?" "What

1 are the recommendations?"

2 So I said, "Okay, they want to go forward with the
3 project." Sounds good.

4 They want to increase the releases at Canyon Dam to
5 250 cubic centimeters per second. And then at some point after
6 they make a bunch of measurements, they might decide that we
7 still need the thermal curtain, maybe in Almanor, maybe in Butt
8 Lake, maybe in both.

9 So she looked at me and said, "Well, what tells them
10 that they need to release the 250 centimeters per second,
11 especially if you exceed some maximum temperature in the water
12 in the North Fork?"

13 As somebody just said here, at some point the
14 temperature either kills fish, or the 250 cubic centimeters per
15 second or the 600 do not impact that location down the river.
16 That's wrong.

17 Lastly, she asked me, "Well, what tells them to put
18 in the thermal curtains?" And I said, "I don't know. They're
19 going to do a lot of monitoring and testing and then maybe
20 they'll make that decision." That's not very specific. You're
21 going to drag us out as a community for another 5 to 10 years.

22 So, I suggest -- I demand that this EIR not be
23 finalized and a license not be permitted unless there are
24 specific metrics that the State and this community can identify
25 to see if any of this stuff is really necessary.

1 One of those would be some maximum temperature in
2 the river that after which the 250 to 650 won't work, you won't
3 take anything out of the lake.

4 Next, is you have to have some kind of metric for
5 determining whether or not either the 250 or the thermal
6 curtain will actually be doing any good.

7 And lastly, you have to put something in the
8 draft -- in the EIR and the license that says, if you guys
9 guess wrong, you're going to take the curtains out, you're not
10 going to make the residents pay for it.

11
12 --oOo--
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14 **JIM NEWELL:** My name is Jim Newell, N-e-w-e-l-l.
15 And I'm the chief financial officer for Intermountain
16 Enterprises.

17 I came here primarily and have lived up here every
18 summer since 1960, what, Brad, one, two, somewhere around
19 there since we were teenager together. And everything has been
20 kind of it focused on lot of stuff.

21 I just want to focus on the business angle. I
22 represent a company that has Chester Paint Center, we have
23 Intermountain Hardware and Supply, we just took over Ayooobs
24 building because we weren't interested in seeing a -- what,
25 we've known Ralph since we were about the same age. So he

1 decided he wanted to retire, so we took over the building, and
2 we're very interested in keeping this community going.

3 And my brother and I, and four other investors have
4 invested in Quincy Paint Center, Susanville Paint Center,
5 Chester Paint Center, Intermountain Paint Center. We have six
6 families involved, so we're a small company, running maybe
7 between 1.5 million and 2 million in economy, but we've got
8 five families going right here.

9 And what you're -- what you're proposing to do, will
10 probably bankrupt us. Okay. Just so you know. So I want you
11 to put a face to that bankruptcy right now. Okay. Because
12 whatever is happening downstream, we're just one company that's
13 struggling, like crazy, for the six months that we could make
14 money.

15 Part of our business is supplying fishing supplies
16 and bait, part, and hardware supplies and paint, but we can't
17 -- I mean, we cannot survive this, with this -- if this
18 happens.

19 So I'm hoping and praying because I'd like to be a
20 positive person, because some people look at you, "You did
21 what? You -- you're taking -- we're thinking it's going this
22 way, and I'm going, "Well, we're going to bring it back up."

23 You guys coming into Ayooobs, keep that since 1964,
24 Ayooobs has been open since 1964. We're keeping the sign up
25 there that's going to say "Historic Ayooobs Building, since

1 1964."

2 We don't want that to be vacant in this town. You
3 potentially are making a ghost town. A ghost town. For what?
4 I can't, for the life of me, figure out, for what?

5 I'd heard rumors, but when our game warden came up
6 here, he says, I'll tell you how it happened. One of the game
7 wardens, he went in, talked to one guy. One guy on the Board.
8 And when he retired, that game warden retired -- I mean correct
9 me if I heard this wrong. I don't know if it's right on, or
10 true, I'm just trying to process this, because I've heard all
11 sorts of rumors.

12 What is the driving force behind you and the Board
13 crippling an economy up here and driving us out of business?
14 And I -- and it's like, I'm not talking about the fish, because
15 all the fish has been happening. But we are going to go out of
16 business right now. We're going to lose our investment. We're
17 going to lose our livelihood, we're going to have to move
18 somewhere else. We love living up here.

19 All for what? No one can tell me, for what?
20 Because, oh, so fish downstream can be better? Well, how's
21 that balanced with all the fish that you're wrecking in Lake
22 Almanor? I don't get it.

23 Not one person on that Board is elected by us. You
24 just got -- heard from a guy who sat here and said, "You know,
25 I've never seen a EIR change." So this is just blapping our

1 mouths, blah blah, blah, blah.

2 All right, the fact is, I'm going -- our stores are
3 going to have -- here's a letter, sign this, write it and ask
4 you -- I want you to go to your people on that Board and say,
5 "Have you ever gone to Lake Almanor? Have you? Have you ever
6 been up here fishing?" I don't know. You don't, oh -- what if
7 you haven't been up here fishing and none of those people have
8 ever been up here golfing or something else.

9 There's a lot of people up here that depend on the
10 tourism trade, for the fishing, for the boating, for the
11 jetskiing, for the sailing. That's a great sailboat lake. But
12 what the heck, I mean, how good sailing is it going to be when
13 you've got these buoys you can't go through?

14 And, you know, we just, we just -- we did this. I'm
15 positive thinking. I've known about the thermal curtain for a
16 long time. So when my brother and I were sitting there saying,
17 "Do I really want to go for this?" I said, "Man, we adopted
18 Chester."

19 My brother's kids have graduated from Chester High
20 School. I've gotten in a whole lot of fights from Chester High
21 School boys, because those Lake Almanor Country Club boys
22 didn't like the Chester High boys, back in the sixties, we
23 didn't -- Brad, didn't you save me one time in this room.

24 FROM THE AUDIENCE: I think you did.

25 JIM NEWELL: Right. But, what I'm saying is, we've

1 been here since we're 14, 15 years old. And we see this going
2 down the toilet. And we do not want this to go down the
3 toilet. This is a great place. I would like you to come up
4 here and visit some time. I might even let you come to my
5 cabin for free. That would probably be illegal, right?
6 Somebody's got a real nice cabin, even better.

7 So anyway, that's all I have to say.

8
9 --o0o--

10
11 **JOAN LEABMAN:** Just one question that hasn't been
12 answered that he addressed. And my question is -- and I'd like
13 to write a T-shirt on it -- For what? None of this makes any
14 sense to me. We've been up here for 35 years. We own a home
15 here on the lake. My kids and now my grandkids enjoy the lake.
16 They catch the fish. I mean, memories are priceless, just like
17 the little credit card commercial. I, intellectually, I don't
18 understand, for what? Can somebody just answer that question
19 for me? For what?

20 Why is all this stress and aggravation going on, for
21 what? And who's going to answer that question?

22
23 --o0o--

24
25 **CAROL WILSON FRANCHETTI:** Carol Wilson Franchetti,

1 F-r-a-n-c-h-e-t-t-i.

2 I -- I was struck by your slideshow, Power Point,
3 whatever you want to call it. But I think this whole evening
4 boils down, for a lot of us, to slide No. 24.

5 Slight No. 24 says, "That either alternative one or
6 two would substantially change the character of or be
7 disharmonious with existing land use and aesthetic features
8 around Lake Almanor or Butt Valley Reservoir."

9 I'm sorry, there's another point, why is it so much
10 more important to cool the North Fork of the Feather River than
11 it is to maintain the beauty, the history, and the commerce of
12 Lake Almanor?

13 How many businesses, as Jim pointed out, will be so
14 negatively impacted that will cease to exist. And I am part of
15 the Wilson family tradition. I've been there 43 years.
16 There's no place else I want to live. But in order to be able
17 to live here, I need to work. And you are taking that away
18 from me. If you take -- proceed with this EIR and this thermal
19 curtain. Thank you.

20

21 --o0o--

22

23 **DAVID PRICE:** David Price, P-r-i-c-e.

24 The gentleman here, Carol Franchetti and I, we've
25 all been in business here. I'm in my 44th year of business in

1 Chester, Lake Almanor.

2 Right at this moment, we are dying on the vine. And
3 this will kill us if it goes in because it's going to cut our
4 recreation, our fishing, our people that come up for the
5 summer. It's going to do it. There are at this moment 47
6 empty business buildings on Main Street in Chester. We are
7 dying on the vine. We need help, we don't need to be torn
8 down. And that's what we've got to say. Help us, don't
9 destroy us.

10

11

12 SCOTT OSWOLD: My name is Scott Oswald, O-s-w-o-l-d.
13 I am, in fact, John Cheli's son-in-law. I'm a contractor,
14 which would be directly affected by this going through. I'm
15 also a fly fishing guide, which would be directly affected.

16 But more importantly, I'm here as a father of three
17 kids that love this area. You know, there's nothing to do up
18 here six months out of the year for kids. I mean, literally
19 nothing. And come summer time, that's all -- that's all the
20 kids have here. "Let's go to the lake. Let's go to the lake."

21 I live in an area over in Bailey Creek where we've
22 got a trail right down to the water. The kids go swimming just
23 every day. You know. And you take that away from them -- I
24 don't want to look into my kids' eyes and say, "We got to get
25 out of here, we can't swim or anything."

1 I mean, I'll do anything for work to support my
2 family but this is where they want to be. This is where
3 everybody's at, cousins, aunts, uncles, grandparents.

4 You know, I just don't see any benefit.

5 And then there was a mention about there are no
6 native fish in Lake Almanor. And I have pictures on my phone,
7 I can show you, of fish spawning in the Campground Creek over
8 at the Forest Service on the West Shore. Now I go there every
9 year and watch these fish. I take my kids down and watch these
10 fish spawn. Stockies don't spawn.

11 So, unless I am imagining something, the data you
12 have is incorrect. There are native fish in this lake. And
13 then, in turn, you cannot replace a native fish with stock
14 fish. It just -- it doesn't make sense. Thank you.

15
16 --oOo--

17
18 BRAD THORNE: My name is Brad Thorne, that's Thorne,
19 with an "e".

20 Now, um, I heard another gentleman say this. The
21 people on this committee that are making this, this, this whole
22 thing happen, what would happen if we went to their house,
23 cordoned off 35 percent of it, and then said live around it.

24 Thank you very much.
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ROBERT MacARTHUR: Robert MacArthur,
M-a-c-A-r-t-h-u-r.

It's been brought up, um, there are people talking about the businesses in Chester. And the economic study needs to be done.

There's a ripple effect. You're looking at, not only Chester, but look at the community of Canyon Dam. People that come up here, they don't just stay in this area, they go to Susanville, they go to Greenville. They're all over.

So, what you're doing is impacting a huge community area. So and I think that's being missed. And so, it's faulted on that study.

Thank you.

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FROM THE AUDIENCE: I have a question. Um, a lot of people said, "Oh, everyone said what I wanted to say. Everyone said what I wanted to say." And they're not recording over there what everyone said what I wanted to say.

So I'm kind of curious, if, whoever made comments today, that maybe a follow-up written, if you have time or whatever. Because if someone else said it, it doesn't count if you say, if you don't specifically specify the issue, am I

1 correct?

2 MS. RAGAZZI: Were you able to capture that?

3 THE REPORTER: (Nodded.)

4 **FROM THE AUDIENCE:** Yes, because they, you know, no
5 one wants you keeping people longer by repeating the same
6 stuff. But, even if it's repeated, you need to repeat it in
7 writing or in a verbal comment.

8 MR. BARNES: Yeah, so if, I'm more than willing to
9 accept written comments with multiple signatures on it. If you
10 guys want to get together, put all your comments down on one,
11 everybody sign it, everybody come to agreement on what you want
12 to stay, that's perfectly fine with me.

13 Um, I know plenty of people have been submitting the
14 same letters. That is another way for you to get the point
15 across, that there's multiple people interested and that have
16 the same comments. So, either way, e-mail or by snail mail.

17 **BILL DENNISON:** I didn't see anything about the
18 Plumas County alternative, the one that was led by Leah Wills
19 and others. Is that going to be considered?

20 MS. RAGAZZI: So the question was --

21 **BILL DENNISON:** Was that considered at all?

22 MS. RAGAZZI: The comment is whether or not the
23 Plumas County Alternative is considered at all in the draft
24 EIR.

25 **BILL DENNISON:** Is there anybody here that's going

1 to make a comment on it?

2 **FROM THE AUDIENCE:** I don't even know what it is.

3 MS. RAGAZZI: I'm not commenting or responding right
4 now. I'm accepting comments.

5 **BILL DENNISON:** The question is, was that --

6 MS RAGAZZI: The question was whether the Plumas
7 County alternative was considered in the draft EIR. I believe
8 that comment is captured.

9 **BILL DENNISON:** You didn't answer the question.

10 MS. RAGAZZI: I'm not answering, I'm not actually
11 answering questions right now. The point of this session is to
12 solicit comments, not to comment.

13 **BILL DENNISON:** Mr. Barnes?

14 MR. BARNES: I'll respond to your comments in
15 writing. It's on the record, so we will be responding. I
16 can't do it at this time.

17 (End of public comments.)

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REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

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I GERIE A. BUNCH, a Certified Shorthand Reporter of the State of California, License No. 6669, do hereby certify:

That said Town Hall meeting was recorded in shorthand writing by me, to the best of my ability, at the time and place therein stated and was thereafter reduced to typewriting.

I further certify that I am not counsel nor attorney for any of the parties hereto, nor in any way interested in the event of this cause and that I am not related to any of the parties thereto.

DATED this _____ day of _____, 2015.

GERIE A. BUNCH, C.S.R. No. 6669

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