

August 23, 2010

Kimberly D. Bose
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, N E
Washington, D. C. 20426

REF: P-606 Kilarc South Cow Creek

Dear Ms. Bose:

The recently released draft EIS for this project is unsatisfactory, inaccurate and disregards completely the people of Whitmore & Shasta County. This is a classic case in which our single-species minded resource agencies are completely ignoring the needs of Man while doing whatever is necessary to get their way for fish. Surely this is apparent to you and other FERC staff members.

Whitmore is a small town yet hundreds of people have turned out to object to your acceptance of this document, including decommissioning of the green hydropower facilities and the destruction of Kilarc Reservoir.

Conversely, no one – not a single solitary official from the CA DFG, the USFWS or NMFS has shown up at any of these meetings in support of this travesty.

Instead of facing the public and explaining in detail why re-watering the creeks in question will significantly benefit our anadromous fish the leaders of these agencies have elected to hide behind electronic filings, outdated and inadequate science and completely unproved assertions that run directly counter to the first-hand, eye-witness testimony of scores of landowners who have lived on the land and observed these creeks for decades in all seasons!

And you, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, an organization that should be carefully balancing our needs for renewable energy and the rights of landowners, have decided to weigh in on the side of the resource agencies and the fish even though your draft EIS does not fulfill the obligations placed upon you by the National Environmental Policy Act!

The people of Whitmore and other parties interested in saving Kilarc have done their jobs, but you, your staff and the resource agencies have not! It is imperative that you stop this charade and completely redo the above reference document.

If you fail to do this the end result of your decision will be an unconstitutional “taking” – a case that will end up in the courts for years. All this turmoil, negative energy and money wasted can be avoided if you, the resource agencies and Pacific Gas & Electric simply sit down and study the alternatives in a business-like fashion. Such cooperation could result in immediate benefits for everyone involved including the fish.

If you do not do this anyone with an ounce of commonsense will see that you and the resource agencies are stuck on senselessness.

That's what I accuse you of...total irrationality. This is absolutely apparent to all who are observing this situation yet you can't see it.

Two suitors stand ready to assume operation and maintenance of these facilities while offering to improve habitat for the fish – a perfect example of how man should be dealing with a reality that is complex but solvable.

But you have chosen to reject these suitors, in effect, as “Johnny’s Come Too Late,” because of artificially imposed deadline dates that in most any other circumstance would be quickly set aside for the benefit of all. You are not being forced to do this. You can address these alternatives if you choose to do so.

Look at who and what you are rejecting!

These suitors have the backing of our U.S. Congressman, Wally Herger. One has the backing of the Shasta County Supervisors and Sierra Pacific Industries one of the most affected landowners and one of our area’s biggest employers. Evergreen Shasta Power has actually offered to make a settlement with you. The other, Davis Hydro, has worked for years with the community in a joint effort to save this resource and help the fish.

Yet, in return for gaining a mile or two of questionably usable habitat you are insisting on destroying what is a uniquely beautiful destination, one that is serving a vital public need for recreation, especially for low income families looking for an ideal picnicking spot, bank anglers who have paid for the right to fish, and handicapped persons of the area who have far too few accessible, truly nearby alternatives.

All of the above as well as local residents and travelers come to this delightful place at 4,000 feet to escape searing valley heat (112 degrees in Redding on this date) to enjoy a day of fishing, family gatherings, wildlife viewing and sightseeing. These visitors bring money into the community, which allows small business owners to keep employees or create new jobs at a time when unemployment in our area has skyrocketed above 15 percent. [Ironically, the Stewardship Council charged with divesting old PG&E properties after the utility filed for bankruptcy early in this decade is trying to create opportunities out of these lands for inner city youth. One hand takes away while the other giveth while neither seems to know what the other is doing.]

In conclusion, I say this: If you destroy this lake and these hydropower facilities you will be driving a dagger into the heart of the community. Besides decimating the area, you will create ill-will, negative energy and wasteful spending. And there will never be any way to tell that your actions have actually benefited the fish. Please stop! Rethink this! Insist on compromise by all the parties. Give the alternatives a chance! Do something for the people all of whom are now on the endangered list!

Thank you for reading my letter.

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