United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
Central California Area Office
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FEB 28 2001

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MEMORANDUM

To: All Long-term Trailer Site Permittees at Lake Berryessa

From: Thomas J. Aiken, Area Manager

Subject: Update on Events and Issues

This memorandum is being sent to update you on events and issues at Lake Berryessa that may directly impact you. Each paragraph includes an individual you may contact with questions, but if you would like to learn more, we invite you to visit our Open House on Saturday, March 31, 2001, at the Solano County Fairgrounds, McCormack Hall, 900 Fairgrounds Drive, Vallejo (near Marine World). This is not a formal meeting or hearing. Instead, key Reclamation staff will be available at Information Stations between 1- 4 p.m. to answer your questions. To assist us in preparing for the Open House, we would like to get a rough idea of how many people to expect. If you are planning to attend, please leave a message on our toll-free information line by calling 1-800-742-9474 and entering 23 on your touchtone phone.

1. *Sanitation Problems* - Violations of State and County wastewater discharge laws have been discovered in Pleasure Cove, Spanish Flat, Lake Berryessa Marina, and Rancho Monticello Resorts. Many of the dry-site permittees were using illegal systems to drain gray (dish/bath water) and black water (toilet sewage) onto the ground and into the lake. The California Regional Water Quality Control Board issued Notices of Violation (NOV) to the four resorts requiring them to hire experts in wastewater discharge to provide remedies and a schedule for cleanup. Wastewater violations were also discovered at Putah Creek and Markley Cove Resorts. A decision on actions to be taken at these two resorts will be made soon. Of all dry sites, 60-70 percent were in violation, and most have been closed pending evaluation and correction of the problems. These closures may affect some permittees who have properly disposed of their wastewater because of contamination from their neighbors. Many of the trailers will have to be removed so that cleanup may begin, and it will be the responsibility of the trailer owners or the concessionaires (depending on the circumstances) to haul them away (the trailers may not be stored on Government land). We do not yet know how long it will take to correct the contamination, but many dry-site permittees will not have use of their sites during the 2001 summer season. For additional information, contact Mike Petrinovich at 916/989-7276 (mpetrinovich@mp.usbr.gov).

2. *Pleasure Cove Resort Issues* - In addition to the NOV which Pleasure Cove Resort received from the State, the concessionaire also has many violations of his concession agreement with the Federal Government. These problems caused Reclamation to issue the concessionaire a Notice of Default (NOD) requiring specific remedies by certain dates. The concessionaire's failure to comply with the NOD could result in termination of the existing concession agreement. The NOD closed 75 of the dry sites in Pleasure Cove's 'Outback' and requires the removal of personal property from the sites by July 15, 2001. At that time, corrective actions will be taken by the concessionaire to clean up the area and return it to a natural condition. The 75 sites will not be reopened. Until this occurs, the other 52 sites in the 'Outback' will also be closed. The concessionaire must take certain actions immediately to keep the entire resort from closing. If the default items are not remedied as listed in the NOD, many of which concern public health and safety, then the entire resort could be closed as early as May 16, 2001. For additional information, contact Mike Petrinovich at 916/989-7276 (mpetrinovich@mp.usbr.gov).

3. *Visitor Services Plan (VSP)* - Work on the VSP is continuing as explained on Reclamation's website at www.mp.usbr.gov/berryessa. The VSP will analyze various options for future public recreation programs and facilities at the lake as well as resort operations after the contracts expire in 2008/2009. As most permittees know, there will likely be major changes which could include the reduction or elimination of long-term sites and the reconfiguration of the concession areas to better meet the general public's short-term recreation needs. The VSP will also address the resorts' lakeshore areas and the numerous failing attempts at bank stabilization. Reclamation will soon begin asking the public for their formal comments on these issues. A final plan is expected by the end of 2002 which will give permittees and concessionaires 5-7 years to plan for any changes. Please remember that the VSP is a separate issue from paragraphs 1 and 2 above. Anyone wanting to be put on the VSP mailing list should contact Janet Harp at 916/978-5112 (jharp@mp.usbr.gov). For additional information, contact Bruce Wadlington at 916/989-7175 (bwadlington@mp.usbr.gov).

4. *Lake Berryessa Management Analysis* - In 2000, Reclamation, in partnership with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), contracted with an independent consultant to conduct an analysis at Lake Berryessa to evaluate whether Reclamation or another agency could more effectively manage recreation and other resources at the lake. The analysis is nearing completion and will be released shortly. Regardless of the outcome, Reclamation and BLM agree that the VSP, as outlined in paragraph 3, must be completed and implemented and that the sanitation problems at the lake must be corrected. For additional information, contact Mike Petrinovich at 916/989-7276 (mpetrinovich@mp.usbr.gov).

5. *On-Site Trailer Sales* - The sale of on-site trailers to individuals who may be unaware of the future planning effort at Lake Berryessa is becoming an issue. All long-term permittees should expect a tightening of the conditions and the disclaimer regarding on-site trailer sales and a requirement for trailer buyers to contact Reclamation prior to finalizing their purchase. Copies of this memorandum are being provided to local realtors and they are being advised to have prospective buyers contact Reclamation about their purchase. For additional information, contact Cleve Dufer at 707/966-2111, x141 (cdufer@mp.usbr.gov).

6. *Miscellaneous* - With the exception of the contaminated sites, Reclamation anticipates few changes in the use of long-term trailer sites until after the expiration of the existing concession agreements in 2008 and 2009. However, any further health and safety violations or contractual violations by the concessionaires could result in additional closures as could certain other circumstances such as shore degradation/encroachment, erosion, unanticipated site damage, or conditions that require significant site modifications. If the concessionaire or Reclamation wish to make a change of use that requires removal of a long-term trailer site, then the permittee must be given a 1-year notification. In cases of serious health or safety issues or contractual violations by the concessionaires, permittees could be required to vacate their sites with very little notice. For additional information, contact Cleve Dufer at 707/966-2111, x141 (cdufer@mp.usbr.gov).

Conclusion - Some of this information may be unsettling to long-term trailer site permittees, but it is very important you know about the current situation. The responsibility to keep permittees informed technically lies with the concessionaires, but Reclamation has found that in some instances information is not being passed on. If you feel you are not being adequately updated, we urge you to contact your concessionaire. If you have other concerns that are not addressed here, please let us know and we will get you that information.

Open House with Information Stations - Saturday, March 31, 2001
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