

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

Summary of Lake Berryessa Community Forum Meeting

Date: November 4, 2015

Time: 6:00 pm

Location: Berryessa Senior Center

Welcoming Remarks and Introduction: Central California Area Office manager Drew Lessard welcomed the members of the Coordinating Team and the public. Drew introduced Reclamation staff and who were at the meeting including Margaret Bailey, the new Park Manager for Lake Berryessa, Ondrej Macejko, the new Concession Management Specialist at Lake Berryessa, and Warren Kasper, the acting Recreation Resources Division Chief, as well as other Reclamation staff in attendance, Lee Mao the Deputy Area Manager, and Emmett Cartier, Darcy Ayotte, Louis Moore, and Janet Sierzputowski. Members of the Coordinating team introduced themselves and the stakeholder groups that they represent.

2015 Operations Overview: Park Manager Margaret Bailey updated Lake Berryessa operations. Lake elevation is 396.46 feet. Capell Launch Ramp is closed, however access is still open to fish or walk down ramp. Capell will be reopened when water levels rise. Patrol lake with three to four seasonal rangers still on duty. The southern portions of Oak Shores is still open. The Lake Berryessa office is working to improve restrooms access, hope to be done by summer. A small contract has been awarded to have pavement around facilities evaluated and determine what can be done with a reasonable amount of money to keep those areas in good shape. The Lake Berryessa office is working with Napa County to grade the Eastside Road when possible. The work on the Putah Creek test well hit water around 185 feet deep. The water is now being tested for quality, and if it comes back satisfactory, Reclamation will connect power to the well so Putah Canyon will have a reliable water source. A contract was recently awarded for pumping vault toilets all around the lake, which is a challenge since pumpers come from far away. Park Rangers are planning 10 to 15 programs this winter reaching out especially to 4th graders in addition to regular projects and tasks, and patrols of facilities. Olive Orchard Day Use Area had an incident of graffiti but the park maintenance crews took care of that. Invasive species control and work with Boy Scouts is continuing. Park staff are installing stations for dog waste and fishing line disposal at Oak Shores. A number of bass tournaments are expected to occur. Sign upgrades will be made across all facilities.

Partnership Update: Camp Berryessa construction is almost complete, and is expected to be done by early November. The site will be available as an environmental education facility. Napa County Parks and Open Space District will monitor the site by camp host, and is currently seeking a host. The camp will be open to the public when not committed to educational groups. The site will have eight tent cabins for eight persons each for a total of 64 persons, with trails, an RV site for the host, a well, electric lines and roads. Solano County Water Agency applied for a Department of Boating and Waterways grant for 2016 to continue to have interns available to make people aware of the beautiful lake and share info about quagga mussels. Tuleyome awarded a contract for construction of the North Shore Trail, with work to begin in February. Berryessa Blue Ridge Partnership (BRBP) and Reclamation are moving forward with a wildlife area management agreement. BRBP is putting together a comprehensive plan, and will do associated NEPA review and plan for comprehensive management of east side lands.

Concession Contract Process Status Update: Central California Area Office manager Drew Lessard updated the Forum on the status of the Lake Berryessa Concession Prospectus. Bids were initially

scheduled to be required by the end of August and extended to mid-September to allow bidders additional time to complete the bid package. Reclamation received multiple bids. An evaluation team has been reviewing the bids, and at this point it is likely Reclamation will be requesting additional supplemental information from bidders. At the January Forum, Reclamation hopes to discuss that process in more detail including names of selected bidders if the Regional Director has made that determination. In support of the future concession operators, Reclamation is conducting the environmental review associated with the plans and specifications released with the Prospectus. The draft environmental analysis is currently being reviewed prior to release for public comment. The time frame to execute contracts with long-term concession operators is still expected to be May or June of 2016.

Coordinating Team Questions: Members of the Coordinating Team asked about how Reclamation is vetting bidders to ensure that they are credible and the process ahead. Reclamation identified the evaluation criteria in Part 5 of the Prospectus. Bids will be evaluated on environmental management, providing quality visitor services, past performance, financial viability, and franchise fee. Subject matter experts in these fields both internal and external of Reclamation are on the review team. These team members will review the proposals and score based on the quality of the responses. In the specific case of financial viability, Reclamation is reviewing letters of credit, proof of funds, and the validity of the proposed business plan. These findings will be shared with the Regional Director and a decision will be made. If a bidder is determined to be the best available for the business opportunity, negotiations will begin. Bidder selections are expected to be announced in January. Members of the Coordinating Team asked about how Reclamation will ensure that bidders have the ability to complete their proposals. Reclamation reiterated that they will be checking the financial health of bidders, their proof of funds, and/or proof of investors. If necessary Reclamation has a provision to require a bond. Members of the Coordinating Team asked if all five areas were covered by bids. Reclamation identified that not all five of the areas offered in the Prospectus had been bid on. Members of the Coordinating Team expressed concern that no potential bidders had contacted Napa County regarding fees associated with hooking into the Napa Berryessa resort Improvement District water and wastewater services. Members of the Coordinating Team asked what will happen to sites without successful bidders, and could Reclamation invest in infrastructure to attract bidders. Reclamation indicated that it will try different approaches when the determination has been made regarding the current bids being considered. Reclamation also described infrastructure and visitor use facilities that Reclamation has installed totaling two million dollars including new wells, water, and dump stations, and campground furnishings. Reclamation will continue to look for more possible investments based on fund availability. Members of the Coordinating team asked if it is possible to get grants to Connect with NBRID. Reclamation explained that as a federal agency Reclamation is limited in the grants that it is able to qualify for.

Public Questions and Comments: Members of the public asked about the RV dump station at Steele Canyon. Reclamation explained that water had not been hooked up to the dump station. A water storage tank will be installed to support the station. Members of the public asked if Reclamation intends to take advantage of current low water to make repairs or replacements of boat ramps. Reclamation will have to assess the conditions and see what can be done with current resources. Members of the public asked about what efforts Reclamation has done to promote Lake Berryessa. Reclamation met with Visit Napa Valley and the Mid Pacific Region Public Affairs office has promoted Lake Berryessa. As well, Reclamation will investigate potential funding for promotional activities. Members of the public asked if the recent sewer pumping contract was awarded locally. Reclamation indicated that it will look up the selected bidder and share it at the next meeting. Members of the public asked about plans for after the expiration of contracts at Steele Canyon and Spanish Flat. Reclamation is in discussions that could include new contracts or possibly extension of the current contractors. Reclamation will be setting up meetings with current interim contractors soon. Members of the public expressed concern that access to Steele Canyon might end. Reclamation expressed that Steele Canyon will not be closed. Members of the public asked about how Reclamation decided to install improvements in concession areas. Reclamation explained that the funding

and efforts had been distributed to the three areas under interim contracts so that all three interim, and future long-term contractors could benefit from Reclamations investments. The improvements include water distribution at Steele Canyon and Spanish Flat, a well at Putah Canyon, as well as campsite improvements and RV dump stations at all three of those areas. Little has been done at Monticello Shores or Berryessa Point as they are closed. Well developments are focused at Putah Canyon since there is no water service at that location and surface water treatment is much more expensive than a well. Members of the public asked about ramp ownership and improvements. Reclamation said it would be happy if people provided information about grants that might fund boat launch improvements. As well, Reclamation stated that the ramp at Steele Canyon is Reclamation's and is provided for the use of the concession contractor at that location. Members of the Coordinating Team asked if information on bidders would be available at the January Forum, and would the forum and public have the opportunity to comment prior to a decision. Reclamation stated that the announcement of successful bidders would happen as soon as possible, even before the next forum if possible. Comments about the selected bidders, as well as the facilities and services they propose will be welcome after the selection is announced. Members of the public also expressed concern about people attempting to make reservations for the 2016 summer, since they do not know who will be operating the areas. Members of the coordinating team expressed concern that the proposed services in the Prospectus, the capital investment associated with them, and the inability to recapture their investment in infrastructure could have made bidders unwilling to bid on certain areas. Members of the coordinating team expressed a desire for Reclamation to take care of the East Side road. Members of the public expressed concern about the rate of progress on long-term contracts and development of services. Reclamation explained that because of the environmental review that Reclamation is conducting now, new contractors will be able to begin development shortly after the negotiation and execution of contracts. Reclamation added that the recent Financial Feasibility Evaluation identified five year phases for development. Members of the public asked why a new prospectus could not be released immediately for areas that did not have bidders. Reclamation indicated that that was possible, but that Reclamation wants to make sure that a re-release or a new prospectus would result in quality bids. Members of the public asked if the contractors would have to go through permitting. Reclamation will approve grading plans, but all other improvements would need the same permits that anyone building in Napa County would need to get. Members of the Coordinating Team asked about the Markley Cove Prospectus. Reclamation indicated that the solicitation for Markley Cove is being completed and will likely be released by April.

For questions or comments regarding Lake Berryessa, contact Park Manager, either by e-mail (mbailey@usbr.gov), mail (Lake Berryessa Office, Park Manager, 5520 Knoxville RD., Napa CA 94558) or by phone (707-966-2111, ext 0).

For additional information, please visit the Lake Berryessa website at <http://www.usbr.gov/mp/cao/berryessa> and click on "Recreation Updates" in the light-blue navigation column on the left.