

Questions & Answers

Pensus Lake Berryessa Properties Contract Termination and Future Recreation Opportunities at Lake Berryessa

December 10, 2012

Impacts:

Why is Reclamation terminating the Pensus contract? Weren't they just getting started with developing the concession areas?

Reclamation and Pensus entered into a 30-year concession contract in April 2010 after Reclamation accepted Pensus' bid and the two parties negotiated the contract terms. The contract required Pensus to provide specific visitor services and recreation facilities according to certain standards and within established development timelines. Pensus failed to comply with the contract terms despite repeated efforts by Reclamation to have Pensus "cure" the deficiencies. In order to fulfill our commitment to the public to provide quality recreation opportunities at Lake Berryessa, we took the necessary actions that ultimately have led to termination of the Pensus contract.

With Pensus' contract terminated, what happens to recreation at the lake?

Reclamation is committed to continuing to provide visitor services and recreation opportunities at Lake Berryessa. We are planning for immediate government operation of several concession areas this winter and spring. We also plan to seek out interim concession contractors in time for the summer 2013 recreation season, to assist in operating several of the recreation sites to provide similar types of services (e.g. boat launching, day use, and camping).

Markley Cove Resort will continue to operate under the current contract until May 2013 and will offer marina services including wet slip rentals, fueling station, launching, retail store and overnight lodging. Reclamation is pursuing options for continued operation of Markley Cove Resort under an interim contract after expiration of the current concession contract.

Pleasure Cove Resort will continue to operate under their long-term contract and will offer tent and RV camping, marina services including wet slip rentals, fueling station, launching, retail store and overnight lodging.

Reclamation is developing options to provide the same or improved levels of service and appropriate facilities and services until new long-term concession agreements can be solicited and awarded. More information will be provided as plans are finalized. For information updates, please visit the Lake Berryessa website at www.usbr.gov/mp/cao/berryessa or contact Jeff Laird, Lake Berryessa Park Manager, at 707-966-2111 or jlaird@usbr.gov. For media inquiries, contact Louis Moore, Public Affairs, at 916-978-5106 or wmoore@usbr.gov.

Will wet slips be available at Lupine Shores any time soon?

Reclamation intends to seek interim concession contractors willing to install wet slips and provide some marina services; however, because of the lead time needed for environmental review and permits to install floating structures on the lake and construct related land-based facilities, it is not likely that wet slips will be available at Lupine Shores in 2013. These types of facilities may be available as soon as summer 2014.

How does the contract termination affect the contract I signed with Pensus for a boat slip and what about my down payment?

Reclamation has instructed Pensus to cancel any contracts and agreements for use of wet slips or other services at its Lake Berryessa concession areas. Please contact Pensus directly regarding a refund of any funds that you paid them for services not yet rendered at 707-966-9088.

How does the contract termination affect the year-long contract I signed with Pensus for dry boat storage 6 months ago?

Reclamation immediately took over management of the concession areas when Pensus ceased its operations at Lake Berryessa as of 3 p.m. on Sunday, December 9, 2012, including temporary management of the dry storage area at Lupine Shores; however, except for a short transition period, we will not be able to continue to provide dry boat storage as a service until new interim concession contracts are in place. Pensus has been requested to contact all of its customers regarding cancellation of existing contracts including those for dry boat storage. For further information, please contact Pensus at 707-966-9088. If you currently have your boat in storage with Pensus at Lake Berryessa, please contact Reclamation to find out more information on how to access or retrieve your boat.

I have heard that the existing launch ramp and paved roads at Lupine Shores can't be used anymore starting in 2013. Is this true?

As part of a legally binding agreement with a former concession operator, the existing launch ramp and main road can only be used for commercial purposes until early February 2013. In order to prevent an interruption in services to the public, Reclamation is investigating options, including discussions with the current owner of the existing launch ramp and paved main road, to allow use of those facilities beyond February 2013.

I have camping reservations at one of the Pensus concession areas. What will happen to that reservation?

We have requested Pensus notify its customers of the cancellation of any pending camping reservations at its Lake Berryessa concession areas. Please contact Pensus for information regarding your future camping reservations. For 2013, camping and lodging will continue to be available by reservation at Pleasure Cove Marina, located at 6100 Highway 128, Napa, CA 94558, 707-966-9600. In addition, we are investigating options to make camping available at the following locations for summer 2013: Oak Shores, North; Lupine Shores; Chaparral Cove; and Foothill Pines. More information will be provided as plans are finalized. For information updates, please visit the Lake Berryessa website at <http://www.usbr.gov/mp/cao/berryessa/>.

Will the future concessionaire at Lupine Shores be required to pay a share of the assessment for use of the Napa Berryessa Resort Improvement District facilities?

Reclamation will require future concessionaire/developers at Lupine Shores to comply with all laws and regulations applicable to Lupine Shores, consistent with the previous prospectus, including connections for water and wastewater with NRBID and payment of future assessments.

Timing:

With a notice of termination, how long until Pensus leaves?

Reclamation's notice of termination required Pensus to cease operations and turn the concession areas over to Reclamation at 3 p.m. on Sunday, December 9, 2012.

When will there be running water and regular plumbed restrooms at the concession areas?

The development of restrooms and showers is contingent upon the development of water and wastewater infrastructure and utilities at the concession areas, and that depends upon the selection of a long-term operator for each site. In the mean time, we are exploring the feasibility of developing some basic utilities such as potable water and restroom facilities in advance of awarding new long-term contracts.

Where can I camp, launch, and fuel my boat, stay overnight, and enjoy day use at the lake now and until interim contracts are awarded?

Full service campgrounds, boat launch, boat fuel, day use and overnight cabins are available for a fee at Pleasure Cove Marina. Except for campgrounds, the same services are available for a fee at Markley Cove Resort. Free boat launch is available at the Reclamation-operated Capell Cove boat launch. Day use and picnicking are available free at Oak Shores, Smittle Creek, Eticuera, and Olive Orchard day use areas. Foothill Pines, Lupine Shores, and Chaparral Cove may be available for camping by Memorial Day weekend 2013, and a concession contractor may be able to operate the northern end of Oak Shores as an 85-site campground as we did in 2009 and 2010. The Dufer Point Visitor Center provides current information to visitors about all recreation opportunities at Lake Berryessa and is located at 5520 Knoxville Road, Napa, CA 94558.

What is the story behind the trail plan I have heard about? Will the trail go all the way around the lake? When will the trail be finished?

In fall 2012, Reclamation completed a Trail Management Plan to determine possibilities for a future Shoreline Trail encompassing most of the federal lands around Lake Berryessa. Trail development is contingent upon the ability to identify funding and development partners for various trail sections. This fall and winter, we are implementing the Trail Management Plan by performing maintenance on portions of the Smittle Creek Trail. Working with our partners, opportunities are being sought to provide additional funding for rehabilitation of the North End Trail. A Student Conservation Association (SCA) trail crew is currently helping with the work on the Smittle Creek Trail, and when completed, will work on other trails at the lake.

What trails are available now?

Several trails are open to use at Lake Berryessa including the Smittle Creek Trail, a native plant trail at the Dufer Point Visitor Center, and the North End Trail. The North End Trail is currently scheduled for major rehabilitation and re-routing work and may be very rough or impassible in some locations.

I have ideas about how to improve recreation services at Lake Berryessa; how can I get involved so that my voice is heard?

Reclamation is in the planning stages to establish and sponsor a forum of public agencies, with meetings open to the public, to promote communication and collaboration in implementing the Visitor Services Plan and addressing issues of mutual concern. Reclamation welcomes public involvement and invites your participation in this new forum. It is anticipated that this public forum will be in place early next year. More information will be announced as plans are finalized. For information updates, please visit the Lake Berryessa website at www.usbr.gov/mp/cao/berryessa or contact Jeff Laird, Lake Berryessa Park Manager, at 707-966-2111 or jlaird@usbr.gov.

Who should I talk to if I have more questions?

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