

Illegal Wastewater Discharges by Resorts at Lake Berryessa

For months, Pleasure Cove Resort at Lake Berryessa has been making gray (sink/bath) and black (toilet) water discharges into the lake or onto the ground. The Resort was given a Notice of Violation in August 2000 but did not respond. The 127 long-term trailers in the Resort's "Outback" are dry (self-contained and not connected to the central sewage system), and 62% of the sites have black and/or gray water discharges. These sewage discharges violate Federal, State, and local laws and will not be permitted to continue. The California Department of Health Services, the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, and Congressman Mike Thompson support the abatement of the illegal wastewater discharges.

On November 3, 2000, Reclamation instructed the Resort to close access to the Outback (except for removal of personal property), turn the water off, and cease collecting rents. Reclamation also inspected dry sites at Rancho Monticello, Berryessa Marina, and Spanish Flat Resorts and issued Notices of Violations to them. Reclamation met with the California Regional Water Quality Control Waste Discharge Unit (State EPA) who agreed with Reclamation's actions and issued their own orders to cease, desist, and clean up the violations. As the landowner, Reclamation was also named in the orders.

On December 15, 2000, an environmental organization, "Save Our Bay," wrote a letter stating that Pleasure Cove Resort Outback campers have until January 31, 2001, to remove their trailers, RV's, and tents. However, Save Our Bay is not operating on behalf of Reclamation. The letters issued by Save Our Bay were not authorized by Reclamation, and we have not yet developed a final plan to correct the wastewater discharge problems. Any future developments or instructions will come from the U.S. Department of the Interior on Bureau of Reclamation letterhead.

For further information, please contact any of these Bureau of Reclamation employees:

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