



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

Central California Area Office
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IN REPLY REFER TO:

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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 to provide you with another update on events and issues at Lake Berryessa that may affect you. In our February 28, 2001, memorandum, we covered six issues/events. In this update, we are covering them again, in the same order.

1. Sanitation Problems - Wastewater discharge issues at three of the four resorts are nearly resolved. About 75 percent of the dry site violations at Spanish Flat, Berryessa Marina, and Rancho Monticello have been remedied, and sites that have been remedied were reopened for recreation use. Several of the resorts elected to close some of the dry sites permanently because of the wastewater violations as well as other types of health and safety violations. Pleasure Cove, the fourth resort, will begin the dry site remedies when all affected permittees have moved off the sites. All four resorts are complying with the Regional Water Quality Control Board's Notice of Violation and with the State-approved technical reports which outline the remedies and the schedule for completion.
2. Pleasure Cove Resort Issues - Most default items have been resolved, and conditions at the resort are greatly improved. The concessioner opted to close the remaining dry sites in the "Outback," effectively closing all of those sites permanently. Permittees whose sites were in the Outback are in the process of removing their personal property. In the case of abandoned property in the Outback, the concessioner will remove trailers and unauthorized improvements (decks, patios, retaining walls, stairs) and will bill the permittees for the removal. The Outback will then be restored to a near-natural condition.
3. Visitor Services Plan (VSP) - About 120 comment letters and e-mails were received from individuals on our recently completed scoping process. The comments will help us to develop the alternatives. The following is intended to clarify the planning process:
 - a. Questions vs. Alternatives - Many people wondered why they had only questions to review and were concerned that information on the actual alternatives was being withheld. The questions presented in Bulletin #2 were intended to solicit input from the public on various issues prior to the development of the alternatives. There are currently no developed alternatives. The alternatives are just now being developed.
 - b. Communications on Planning - Some permittees feel we have not done a good job communicating with them on the VSP and believe we have been hesitant to meet with trailer owners. However, the permittees are the only special interest group with whom we have specifically met or communicated. If you belong to a group that would like to have a Reclamation representative meet with you, we will make every effort to accommodate you. We are willing to take all reasonable approaches in order to keep the public informed. But the two best sources for information are our bulletins or our website <http://www.mp.usbr.gov/berryessa>.

c. Lakeshore vs. Flood Plain - Some people used the terms "lakeshore" and "flood plain" interchangeably. The *flood plain* is all areas from 455 feet above mean sea level (msl) and below. The *lakeshore* is the area above 455 msl, and it does not have a definite upper limit. In Bulletin #2, we included the area within 100 linear yards of 455 msl as the lakeshore.

d. Next Actions - Reclamation will summarize all of the comments received and provide the summary to you; however, due to the large number of comments, it will take some time to complete the summary. We are using this data to help develop the alternatives. You will have another opportunity to comment on the alternatives and the draft VSP/Environmental Impact Statement.

e. Support Actions - To obtain accurate information on conditions at the resorts, we will be conducting various area and facility analyses throughout the remainder of this summer. You may see some folks around your areas during the summer; all of the resorts are aware of this work. Eventually the facts accumulated by this work will be used to determine what type of actions need to be addressed in the VSP.

1) We have contracted with a company to perform a *Condition Assessment Analysis* of all of the concessionaire-owned facilities in order to be aware of their potential for continued use and the need for repair/maintenance. This analysis will also generally evaluate the layout of the trailer areas and their compliance with applicable codes and regulations. It will not include analysis and critiques of individual trailers, but only the total development.

2) The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection will conduct an analysis of each resorts' fire and life/health safety conditions. This analysis will look at access and egress in the event of a fire or other emergency, and will apply applicable codes and regulations to those concerns. They will not inspect individual trailers but will comment on obvious hazards in the resort area.

4. Lake Berryessa Management Analysis - Completion of this report has been put on indefinite hold. Reclamation and BLM agree that any change in managing agency should not take place until after Reclamation has dealt with concession contract issues and completed the VSP. BLM remains involved in the VSP and with land management issues, and the agencies are sharing employees and equipment on certain projects.

5. On-site Trailer Sales - The disclosure form is being used and the process appears to be working. Prior to purchasing a trailer at a recreation site, buyers must bring the form to the Lake Berryessa Reclamation office in person. A Reclamation employee will disclose the concession contract termination date and the effect of that date on the future use of the site. About 25 trailers have been sold since the process was initiated in April.

6. Miscellaneous - On March 31, 2001, Reclamation held an Open House in Vallejo for all permittees, and about 500 people attended. We received many positive comments about the event and thank those of you who attended for taking the time to meet with us and share information. Please remember that the responsibility to keep you informed technically lies with your concessionaire, and 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 or on our website, please let us know and we will get you that information. Questions should be addressed to:

Visitor Services Planning effort - Bruce Wadlington, 916/989-7175, bwadlington@mp.usbr.gov
Sanitation or Pleasure Cove issues - Patty Goodwin, 707/966-2141 x142, pgoodwin@mp.usbr.gov
Process for onsite trailer sales - Patty Goodwin, 707/966-2111 x142, pgoodwin@mp.usbr.gov
Concessions management issues - Cleve Dufer, 707/966-2111 x141, cdufer@mp.usbr.gov
To be added to the VSP mailing list - Janet Harp, 916/978-5112, jharp@mp.usbr.gov

Reclamation's website for Lake Berryessa issues is: <http://www.mp.usbr.gov/berryessa>