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MEMORANDUM

TO: All Interested Parties

FROM: Thomas J. Aiken, Area Manager

SUBJECT: Lake Berryessa Visitor Services Planning (VSP) Update

This memorandum is being sent to update you on issues related to the ongoing VSP effort at the lake. While work on the VSP is continuing, it is now apparent that we will be unable to meet the dates listed in our last published schedule, including our anticipated Fall 2002 release of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). We apologize for being unable to stick to our anticipated dates. There are many reasons for the delay, but they do not alter the fact that you were anticipating the DEIS at this time. However, we are still making progress, and nothing adverse has occurred to derail the eventual plan.

We have had to take certain actions which added to the planning timeframe. These actions were required to ensure that our analyses are being conducted in a manner that provides an appropriate overview of future options at the lake. For example, there were concerns about the possibility of a Preferred Alternative that would require businesses to generate revenue without depending on year-round trailer site rentals as they do presently. This is a concern for Reclamation as well, and we are making extra efforts to ensure that the contractor conducting the economic feasibility study is properly reviewing the impacts of such a change. Another aspect of the project being extensively studied is the future costs for concessionaires, trailer owners, and Reclamation in order to attain compliance with existing laws, regulations, and building codes. We have just received a draft of the contracted Condition Assessment Analysis for all concession facilities. It was completed later than expected, but the work was well done and thorough, and we are now awaiting the final document. Furthermore, the California Department of Forestry has provided us with a critical review of fire, health, and safety issues at each concession.

Work is also progressing on the Draft Alternatives and the Economic Feasibility Study which are both required before the DEIS can be completed. The DEIS will basically contain background information, a description of the affected environment, the Draft Alternatives, and an analysis of the impacts (the environmental consequences) if each of the several Alternatives were implemented. The Draft Alternatives and all the other studies and analyses will be presented in the DEIS; however, copies of these reports are not yet available. If appropriate, they may be released when we release the DEIS for public comment, which we expect to occur in Summer 2003. Given the complexity and coordination of all this work, we will provide notification on both the Lake Berryessa website and through the mail approximately 1 month in advance of the availability date of the DEIS.

There has also been some concern that because the process is taking so long, there will be inadequate time for all interested parties to provide comments or be further involved prior to the expiration of the concession contracts. This is of particular concern to long-term trailer site permittees. Please keep in mind that the current concession contracts do not expire until 2008 and 2009, so there is still plenty of time to work through the planning process. In fact, recognizing in advance that there would undoubtedly be unforeseen delays, we began the process in May

2000, far in advance of the contracts' expiration. We have stated many times that we do not intend to initiate any changes to the operation of the concessions through the remaining term of the current contracts. Changes could occur, however, if there are immediate issues of public safety or environmental degradation (as have occurred several times in the last 2 years) or should a concessionaire make a proposal which Reclamation approves.

Lake Berryessa Visitor Services Planning Schedule

(Current as of October 2002 – Please note that this schedule is subject to change)

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|---------------------|--|
| MAY – SEP 2000 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Field work, information collection, and newsletter mailing |
| OCT 2000 – MAR 2001 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develop Purpose & Need Statements and questions in preparation for scoping |
| MAR – JUN 2001 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Formal public comment (Scoping) |
| JUN 2001 – SEP 2002 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Condition Assessment of Concessionaire Facilities• Release of public comments (see Mar-Jun 2001 preceding) |
| JUN 2002 – JUN 2003 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Conduct Recreation Demand and Feasibility Studies• Conduct Environmental Analysis• Prepare Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) |
| SUMMER 2003 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Release DEIS to the public for comment |
| FALL 2003 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Analysis of public comments to DEIS• Develop Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) and the VSP |
| WINTER 2003/2004 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Release FEIS/VSP to the public |
| SPRING 2004 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Release Record of Decision• Make available supporting studies as applicable |
| 2004-2009 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Begin implementing sections of the plan not tied to current concession contracts• Should an immediate issue of public safety or environmental degradation arise or a concessionaire make a proposal which Reclamation approves, some changes in concession operations could be made |
| 2008-2009 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Remaining conditions of VSP will be put into effect through new concession contracts |

You may contact the following employees with questions relating to the VSP or to concessions management:

Visitor Services Planning effort:	Mike Petrinovich	916-989-7276	mpetrinovich@mp.usbr.gov
Process for onsite trailer sales:	Patty Goodwin	707-966-2111 x142	pgoodwin@mp.usbr.gov
Concession management issues:	Cleve Dufer	707-966-2111 x141	cdufer@mp.usbr.gov
Corrections to the mailing list:	Janet Sierzputowski	916-978-5112	jsierzputowski@mp.usbr.gov