



October 16, 2012

State Water Resources Control Board
Attn: Jeffrey Parks
P.O. Box 2000
Sacramento, CA 95812
Email: jparks@waterboards.ca.gov

Re: Pinecrest Lake Level Public Workshop

Dear Mr. Parks

The Tuolumne County Building Industry would like to thank you for holding the workshop in Sonora.

To reiterate my comments in the public hearing portion of the workshop, I would like to provide the following points that we feel need to be considered when lake level and the corresponding effect to outflow is discussed.

1. First and foremost, government is best served at the local level and where possible we believe that the best policy is one implemented by those closest to the people and the issue. The Tuolumne Utility District has proven to be a good partner in managing their allotment of outflow from the Pinecrest Reservoir resource and we strongly suggest that their needs and management of this resource be given priority whenever possible.
2. The economy of Tuolumne County depends on a reliable and stable source of water and any limitation placed on this important resource, that would involve an application and approval process up the chain, will only serve to tie the hands of planners that are making decisions based on what is available and not on what could be available i.e. They would need to rely on a condition that an approval of a lower lake level would not happen. (This condition is already impacting projects that are in the early processes of planning)
3. Specific criteria that would be a guide to when and how the lake level would be maintained all the way down to 5600 would be beneficial to all concerned and would eliminate the political football the lake has become.
4. We need to recognize the historic use of lake levels to maintain outflow and come to an agreement that best represents these historic minimums.
5. Additional beach development should be part of the plan to minimize impacts to recreation when it becomes necessary to work with lower lake levels during difficult dry years.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to comment on the plan and we hope that as stewards of this important resource the Water Board will consider all of the down stream constituents and their economic vitality and not just the adjacent users and their impacts.

Mark Banks
President
Tuolumne County Building Industry