

Parks, Jeff@Waterboards

From: Stephanie McCaffrey <innkeeper@mccaffreyhouse.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 17, 2012 12:12 PM
To: Parks, Jeff@Waterboards
Subject: Pinecrest Lake



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October 17, 2012

State Water Resources Control Board

Attention: Jeffrey Parks

Dear Mr. Parks

I would like to comment on the matter of water levels at Pinecrest Lake and its effect on the economy the upper Highway 108. Most businesses here rely very heavily in the summer season (May through Labor Day) on tourism. That would include lodging, restaurants, grocery stores, gas stations, auto repair, pharmacies, sporting goods stores and more.

A great majority of our visitors are attracted to our area because of Pinecrest Lake and the recreation opportunities it offers. Many of these visitors call in late summer to inquire about lake water levels and effect on their fishing, boating and beach activities. When lake levels are too low, it discourages their visit and they go elsewhere. Not only do we lose tourism business, but the county government is denied lodging sales taxes.

The current minimum, pre-labor day lake level of 6,508 feet satisfies the needs of all concerned parties including Tuolumne Utilities District and should not be lowered beyond 6.506 before Labor Day.

This year, 2012, was a drought season and TUD had sufficient water resources despite their early sea concerns. A better use of conservation measures by TUD would serve the county far better than unrestricted consumption of our precious water resources. Tuolumne County is not currently growing in population and demand will not grow to any measurable extent for some time to come.

I've enjoyed the pleasure of Pinecrest Lake since the 1940's and hope to continue to do so. I hope you take into consideration the economic and recreational impact this issue has on our Highway 108 communities and businesses when making your decision on this matter.

Thank you for your time.

With Warmest Regards,

Michael McCaffrey, Proprietor/Innkeeper
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