



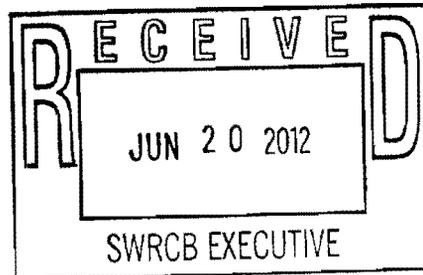
TUOLUMNE COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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June 19, 2012

Mr. Tom Howard, Deputy Director
State Water Resources Control Board
P. O. Box 100
Sacramento CA 95812-0100

DWR



Subject: Pinecrest Lake Elevation

Dear Tom,

The Tuolumne County Chamber of Commerce (TCCC), representing businesses with over a total employee base of 6,000, is very concerned over the reliability of water in Tuolumne County. The Tuolumne Utilities District (TUD) provides the county with drinking, commercial as well as irrigation water.

During the FERC relicensing for PG&E's South Fork Stanislaus operations, the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) set a condition of the 401 Water Quality Permit for Pinecrest Lake. The SWRCB permit condition calls for the surface water elevation to "not go below 5,608 ft." above sea level between Memorial Day and Labor Day. Because of our unusually dry year, PG&E and TUD have requested that the SWRCB allow them to draw the lake elevation down to 5,606 ft. to be able to meet customers' needs.

The Tuolumne County Chamber of Commerce is very concerned about our local economy if supply has to be decreased or eliminated entirely. For example, Sierra Pacific Industries operates three plants in the county, employing well over 300 people with a spin-off of many more hundreds. If they were forced to shut down operation these employees, who earn family wages, will be out of work. The lake had been operated for decades at or below this elevation and recreation was not harmed, also an important part of our fragile economy.

TCCC supports PG&E and TUD's request for a variance to the established lake elevation. The health and economic viability of our county depends on it.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

George Segarini
President/CEO

cc: Tuolumne Utilities District
Tuolumne County Board of Supervisors