



Twain Harte Community Services District

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January 8, 2015

Jeff Parks
State Water Resources Control Board – Division of Water Rights
Water Quality Certification Program
P.O. Box 2000
Sacramento, CA 95812-2000

SUBJECT: Mitigated Negative Declaration – Pinecrest Lake Level Modification Project

Dear Mr. Parks:

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on the subject mitigated negative declaration. The Twain Harte Community Services District would like to express its strong support for the for PG&E's Pinecrest Lake Level Modification Project. This project is greatly needed for the health and safety of our community.

Our community's primary source of water is sold to us by Tuolumne Utilities District (TUD) who obtains water from PG&E out of Lyons Reservoir and Pinecrest Lake. With the existing Pinecrest Lake level restrictions, we rely on water stored in Lyons and the snowpack to supply our water needs each summer. Even in wet years, these two sources of water are barely enough to meet normal demands. In drought years and years where snowpack is below average, these sources cannot meet our normal demands. In 2014, we were forced to conserve 50% of our normal use to ensure that our community had sufficient water for health, sanitation and fire suppression. To achieve this, we had to implement penalties if customers used more than 45 gallons per capita per day (10 gallons per capita less than the minimums recommended by the State Water Board). This level of conservation threatens our basic human right to water and could be avoided if we had access to water stored in Pinecrest Lake throughout the summer.

The historic drought conditions we are currently faced with, including the record-low snowpack, gives us no choice but to rely on water stored in Pinecrest. This need will only become more frequent as climate change continues to decrease snowpack. The Pinecrest Lake Level Modification Project is essential to replace normal snowmelt flows with water stored during the winter. Without this project, it will be difficult to meet basic human consumption needs in the future and especially in years of drought.

Again, thank you for this opportunity to provide our comments. Please feel free to contact our General Manager, Tom Trott, at (209) 586-3172 should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

PHILLIP MAXWELL

Board President

Twain Harte Community Services District