



NACIMIENTO REGIONAL WATER
MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

June 2017 Update

NRW MAC'S NEW WEBSITE: NRW MAC has a new website filled with interesting articles, history, projects, mussel info, lake levels, lake cams and much more. Please visit us at www.NRWMAC.org where you can also donate to NRW MAC and purchase "*Save the Dragon*" apparel. Your donations help us in our efforts to represent owners and lake enthusiasts on issues that directly affect us and Lake Nacimiento.

RANGERS ON THE LAKE: We have all heard that Monterey County will no longer have Ranges patrolling the lake after the Memorial Day weekend. Thanks to a great letter writing, email, and phone campaign Monterey County is very aware that we are watching them. They have indicated by return letter to SLO County Supervisor John Peschong that they "will have rangers patrolling our park areas at Lake Nacimiento". In another sentence they state: "Additionally, we are developing a plan to provide adequate ranger staffing at the lakes for major holiday weekends". The "park areas" are not the lake, and staffing Rangers only on the holiday weekends is not enough. It is clear that Monterey County is planning to abdicate their responsibility to provide Rangers for law enforcement, boating safety, and emergency response on the lake as they have done for over 30 years. In the past years Monterey County Park Ranger staff has been reduced from over 20 down to 6. To put a boat on the lake requires 3 people, one at the Marina, and two in the boat. To cover shifts, and days off it takes 7-8 Rangers to keep a boat on the lake.

While our writing campaign has been successful in getting their attention, we still need to exert pressure on the Monterey County Board of Supervisors. The Board of Supervisors will hold a Budget Hearing on Monday June 5, 2017 starting at 9:00 AM in their chambers located at 168 W. Alisal St, 1st Floor, Salinas, CA 93901. Anyone who is in attendance will have the opportunity to speak (for 3 minutes) to the budget item concerning the Rangers. We urge anyone who can attend this meeting to do so and express your opinion on this gross abdication of responsibility of a critical health and safety issue. We should also stress that leaving the lake unattended will greatly increase their liability in case of an accident, emergency, or natural disaster.

WATER RELEASES DURING THE SUMMER: The Monterey County Water Resources Agency announced in the Reservoir Operations Committee meeting held on May 25, 2017, that they would continue with large releases of water throughout the summer. Recent releases have been in the 400-600 cfs range. However, in some cases, yet to be defined, they would up the releases to 1000 cfs during the overnight hours. The releases, depending on the timing, could take the lake level down 6 to 12 inches per week. MCWRA's plan is to have the lake level down to elevation 760 by October 28, 2017. Those of you who have private docks, or organizations with community docks, need to be vigilant in order to keep docks from going dry.

MCWRA TUNNEL PROJECT: The Monterey County Water Resources Agency (MCWRA) recently held a meeting for the homeowners whose property the tunnel will cross. Unfortunately, there really wasn't any new information substantially different from a meeting they held a year ago. MCWRA still had no answers to questions put forth by the homeowners 18 months ago.

MCWRA continues to plan for a tunnel to connect Lake Nacimiento, and Lake San Antonio presumably to capture flood waters that would normally go to the ocean. MCWRA recently received \$10M from the State to begin the Engineering work. MCWRA has promised to share the modeling data with NRWMAC. Conflict still exists between NRWMAC and MCWRA as to tunnel elevation. MCWRA wants the tunnel at elevation 745, and NRWMAC wants the elevation to be 780. NRWMAC's concern is that if the tunnel is at 745 that MCWRA won't let the lake fill more than elevation 760 (approximately 50% of capacity).

We have been trying to arrange for a public meeting between owners around the lake and the MCWRA. We thought it might be arranged for June 16th, but MCWRA notified us that they wanted it postponed. We will continue our efforts to set up a meeting. This would be your chance to hear what they have to say and voice your opinion. More information to follow as details get firmed up.

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