



## April 2023 NEWSLETTER

### Inter-Lake Tunnel Update

On January 20<sup>th</sup> the Monterey County Regional Water Agency (MCWRA) sent out notification that the Inter-lake Tunnel and Spillway project “Draft Environmental Impact Report” (DEIR) had been released, and that the public review and comment period had started.

NRWMAC sent a formal request to MCWRA on January 30<sup>th</sup> asking for them to extend the comment period for the 2600 page DEIR to 60 days as authorized by the statute for public review and comment. MCWRA responded and extended the comment period to a full 60 days.

NRWMAC engaged their attorneys and expert consultants and submitted a formal comment response to the DEIR. NRWMAC’s position is that the DEIR fails as an informational document under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), and lacks substantial evidence to support its conclusions that the Tunnel Project’s significant impacts would be mitigated to the greatest extent feasible. Additionally, NRWMAC believes that there is also substantial evidence demonstrating that the Project’s potentially significant environmental impacts are far more extensive than disclosed in the DEIR. NRWMAC and our expert consultant identified numerous potentially significant impacts that the DEIR either mischaracterizes, underestimates, or fails to identify. Moreover, many of the mitigation measures described in the DEIR will not, in fact, mitigate impacts to the extent claimed.

We now await responses to our comments and a decision from MCWRA if they will alter and recirculate another DEIR, or move forward with a hearing to adopt the DEIR as the final Environmental Impact Report.

The comment response submitted by NRWMAC can be viewed here:

[www.nrwmac.org/knowledge-base/nrwmac-deir-comment-response-to-MCWRA/](http://www.nrwmac.org/knowledge-base/nrwmac-deir-comment-response-to-MCWRA/)

### Rain, Replenish, and Release

With all the rain we have had, its easy to get excited about the lake filling and seeing the natural wonder of water. However, our work at NRWMAC is never ending. MCWRA has released this years proposed Release Schedule and we are pretty shocked by it!

Many of you saw the large releases and asked why the releases were taking place on a “¾ full lake”. A great question and we have been pushing and asking at the ResOps meetings, why the releases are so drastic. And as usual, not getting good answers!

The proposed release schedule, (Attached) is once again not only pushing most of the water out, but it is pushing the largest amounts out during the three months of peak recreation.

We will continue to ask Monterey County WHY they are just draining the lake and not managing the water for later releases as they should be.

### Mussel Up!

NRWMAC’s long term commitment to mussel awareness and prevention continues with ongoing muscle certification classes. In February and March NRWMAC's certified instructors held Re-certification and Level I Inspector classes in Heritage Ranch and Oak Shores, gearing up for this summers.

The classes at Cal-Shasta had to be rescheduled due to heavy rain and the washed out roads.



The next mussel classes are scheduled for:

April 22, 2023 Heritage Ranch

9:00 AM Level I class

1:00 PM Level I class

May 20, 2023 Cal-Shasta Club

10:00 AM Resident Vessel Class

11:30 AM Re-certification class.

If you are interested in becoming an inspector, or re-certifying, please register with San Luis Obispo County at [druedas@co.slo.ca.us](mailto:druedas@co.slo.ca.us) or contact NRW MAC for more information.

And please practice responsible boating by ensuring that all your watercraft are cleaned, drained, dry, and mussel-free before launching.



### Need a little camera Help

One of the requests we get all the time is about lake cams. It has been getting harder and harder to find good quality webcams at the lake and most of the cams we had are now gone.

If you, or anyone you know, has a good, stable webcam that shows the lake, and we can use and highlight that cam feed on our website, we would love to hear from you! Please send an email to [info@nrwmac.org](mailto:info@nrwmac.org) and we can discuss putting it up on our site.

### Rain, Roads and Repair

As most of you know, the last few storms were pretty severe and Chimney Rock Road had some major issues and was closed, with more than a few people stranded or unable to get to the south side of the lake.

NRW MAC wants to thank all the communities and people that banded together and stepped up to help out neighbors during this trying time. There were many people that came to the needs and rescue of others, many of them in the heavy rains and some long hours as well. The term “Helping Neighbors” has been used over and over and we cannot thank everyone who helped enough! This neighborly spirit is what makes the lake communities and people SO special.

Many thanks to Oak Shores General Manager Stephanie Dayton and her staff for assisting everyone and just being a “good neighbor”. Oak Shores offered and assisted in any way possible. Many folks have been able to go to Oak Shores to park their vehicles and ferry across the lake to their homes. Both parking lots at Oak Shores main marina are still under water but there is parking behind the clubhouse. And the west ramp and main marina launch ramps are available with some careful maneuvering.

With the first road closure in January, Heritage Ranch Resident Steve Negro/retired fire captain, gathered contact information for residents of all South Shore lake communities, and coordinated pontoon boats going to and from Heritage Ranch to obtain supplies and groceries at Oak Hill Market and in Paso Robles.

In March, on the second round of road closures, Skyler Jewell/Heritage Ranch GM and the Heritage Board of Directors, coordinated a second round of pontoon boats going to and from Heritage Ranch to obtain groceries and supplies from Oak Hill Market and in Paso Robles. This effort continues today until the road into Running Deer is repaired.

The volunteers efforts were hampered by heavy rain at times, and a lot of debris in the water. In many cases the normal “15 minute trip” to the marina took 45 minutes to an hour.



And as the rain continued, trees fell and rocks and hillsides started sliding, and again, many volunteers stepped up to clear roads and keep things moving.

Support crews from PG&E and Davy Tree Service made arrangements to boat over and help get power back and keep potential trees out of the way. And once again individuals stepped up to transport the crews to problem areas.

Supervisor John Peshong held a meeting at the Marina for affected lake residents, and sends out daily updates with photos on the Chimney Rock road repair. His office also sends out daily agendas and sign up links for services offered by San Luis Obispo County Office of Emergency Services (OES) - including shuttles to stores and large animal feed deliveries.

San Luis Obispo OES negotiated with Monterey County, and with the support of Layla Decker, secured 10 boat slips and 20 parking spaces for stranded people, in addition to setting up pontoon boat rides to Oak Hill Market and even helped with trash pickup / drop-off.

Running Deer Ranch, South Shore, Cal-Shasta, Rancho del Lago, and Tri-Counties were each provided a number of spots and slips to distribute among their club members. Another set of spots and slips were offered to private property owners as a group, through April 30<sup>th</sup>.

Monterey County waived entry and overnight fees for residents accessing the marina, and also waived entry fees for individuals transporting a resident (limited to 1 hour for pick-up and 30 minutes for drop off). No activities are allowed under the MOU other than the pick up or drop off of residents.

And there were many more people that worked very hard to help out others. Individuals from all communities, and areas at the lake, the main marina personnel, the rangers, and so many more... and we thank you all!

## Up Coming Events

The 2023 boating season promises to be one of the best in a long time and it is great to see everyone helping with the clean up on our shores. But please be careful out there as there is still a lot of debris in the water.

And when your at the lake, there are going to be a few events that you don't want to miss!

April 29<sup>th</sup> Heritage Ranch is having a Craft Fair at the Senior Center

“Gear at the Gate”! The response from the Running Deer Ranch shirt and ‘gear sales’ at the gate on May 26<sup>th</sup>, the Friday of memorial day weekend... has gone viral! And this year “Gear at the Gate” will be at Running Deer Ranch as usual, but also at Heritage Ranch and Oak Shores as well!

If your able to help out at the gates, please get in contact with Bruce McFadden (Heritage) or Michele Lauffer (OS) and let them know you can help, we expect A LOT of people to be stopping and buying!!

Of course you can also email [info@nrwmac.org](mailto:info@nrwmac.org) to sign up!

And if your coming to the lake on that Friday, please stop by and Grab some Gear!



## What You Can Do

We are back in court, now in Sacramento with the State Water Board, maintaining the battle with Monterey. It's very costly to fund our hardworking legal team and now - more than ever - we need you to support NRW MAC's efforts on your behalf.

And, we need you to pass this newsletter along to everyone you can think of who can help us to inform anyone and everyone who is concerned about Lake Nacimiento and our legal battle to

NRW MAC needs volunteers to help get the word out, help procure time and dollar donations, sign up to help at fundraisers and events, and help inform people at information stations.

[www.nrwmac.org/get-involved](http://www.nrwmac.org/get-involved)

NRW MAC participates in events all around the lake and in various communities. Please look for our notices and events in your area, and if you have an event you would like to host, please let us know, and we can help and participate as well.

## *Save the Dragon!*

Generous people like you are the **ONLY** source of funds supporting NRW MAC efforts to correct and hold Monterey accountable for water mismanagement at Lake Nacimiento. Even if you have previously donated, **We urgently need you to keep supporting our efforts at this time with dollar donations for NRW MAC's legal expenses.**

Please donate any amount that you can. Clicking a link below will take you directly to a donation site.

### **GoFundMe:**

[www.gofundme.com/lake-nacimiento-save-the-dragon](http://www.gofundme.com/lake-nacimiento-save-the-dragon)



or

### **Private Donation:**

(via PayPal)

<http://nrwmac.org/donate#Private-Donation>



If you prefer to write a check, please make it out to NRW MAC and mail to: NRW MAC, PO BOX 398, Paso Robles, CA 93447.

