



APRIL NEWS BULLETIN: Urgent Action Required for Lake Nacimiento – Your Support is Vital April 29, 2024

Good morning everyone, we're reaching out with an urgent update regarding the alarming situation at Lake Nacimiento. As detailed in the NRWMAC April Newsletter, the Monterey Reservoir Operations committee (ResOps) began extreme releases to facilitate dam repairs later in the year. These releases, ranging from a daily 1100 to 1450 cubic feet per second (cfs), not only result in a wasteful depletion of water resources that could have been postponed; but they pose increased dock maintenance and potentially may violate Monterey County's operating permit.

In response, NRWMAC took swift action, engaging legal counsel to urge the State Water Board to intervene and halt these extreme releases. Several days after our communication with the State Water Board, they confirmed to us that the extreme releases had ceased on Friday, April 26th, and that the releases would revert to the normal schedule thereafter. For your reference, a copy of this letter has been attached.

Your support is vital to Save The Dragon!

NRWMAC's efforts require substantial financial resources. Legal proceedings, research endeavors, and advocacy initiatives entail significant costs, and our organization relies solely on the generosity of donors like you. Therefore, **we urgently appeal to your kindness to donate today** and support NRWMAC's endeavors during this critical period.

Your donations are crucial in holding Monterey County accountable and safeguarding Lake Nacimiento and its ecosystem. Whether you've contributed before or not, please consider donating today.

To donate, click the link below or mail a check to:

NRWMAC
PO BOX 398
Paso Robles, CA 93447.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. For questions or more information, please do not hesitate to reach out to us. Your support is invaluable, and together, we can protect Lake Nacimiento.

GoFundMe:



www.gofundme.com/lake-nacimiento-save-the-dragon

Private Donation: (via PayPal)



www.nrwmac.org/donate#Private-Donation

April 19, 2024

VIA E-MAIL TO joaquin.esquivel@waterboards.ca.gov
AND U.S. MAIL

Honorable E. Joaquin Esquivel, Chair
California State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Monterey County Water Resources Agency
Lake Nacimiento, Permit 7543

Dear Chairperson Esquivel:

This letter is written on behalf of Nacimiento Regional Water Management Advisory Committee (NRWMAC).

As you know, Monterey County Water Resources Agency (MCWRA) operates Lake Nacimiento in San Luis Obispo County under SWB license 7543. MCWRA published a proposed release schedule on April 4, 2024, which showed their April releases at 350 cfs, which is consistent with their recent practices.

MCWRA announced that same day that they were going to make an extraordinary release of at least 20,000 acre-feet, above and beyond their normal releases, in order to draw the lake down over eight feet in elevation by June 1st. This is not for flood control. It is instead to accommodate a construction project they had initially planned for last year and postponed until this year. NRWMAC asked MCWRA not to make this extraordinary release, and instead let the lake draw down according to their original proposed release schedule. This would have taken an extra two weeks. Our request was categorically denied.

Today MCWRA has increased their drawdown release to 1500 cfs, or almost 3,000 AF/day. At the same time, the Salinas River is flowing over 300 cfs at Soledad and the rubber dam in Castroville (the SRDF project) has not yet been raised. There is consequentially no reservoir downstream of this extraordinary release to capture the extra flow, and it is running out to sea. The absorption capacity of the service area is already saturated by the natural flow of the river. This unnecessary release is therefore being totally wasted, contrary to the terms of their license (page 8 of 9).

Honorable E. Joaquin Esquivel, Chair
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We respectfully request that your agency exercise its authority and immediately instruct MCWRA to stop this unnecessary and wasteful release and let the lake draw down according to their proposed 350 cfs release schedule instead. A timely response is necessary and would be greatly appreciated.

Very truly yours,

ALESHIRE & WYNDER, LLP



Wayne Lemieux

WL:dkk