



April 2024 NEWSLETTER

Monterey County to release 1.5ft of water per week until June!

At the April 4, 2024 Resops meeting, it was announced that Monterey County intends to lower the lake level to below 787.5' elevation by June 1, to bring the water level below the top of the concrete spillway. This adjustment is for the safety of the workers who will be working in the spillway, replacing one of the concrete panels. This work was postponed from last year, and now the County has determined it has to start construction on June 1 of this year. The rationale behind this decision was the scheduled start date of the contracted company for the project, which the county was determined to meet.

Despite strong objections from the NRWMAC representative, repeated suggestions to verify with their contractor if a later date would be feasible, the county insisted on sticking to their original plan. The NRWMAC representative emphasized the adverse impact of losing 9 feet of water over 45 days on those dependent on floating docks and highlighted the wastage of water, especially considering the ample supply from the Salinas River due to other sources.

So, the 60cfs releases we had for a few weeks suddenly surged to 700cfs, then skyrocketed to over 1100cfs at the U.S.G.S. meter #11149400 on Monday, April 8, 2024. People who had set up their docks over the prior weekend are likely to encounter significant challenges upon their return. NRWMAC highlighted this as yet another instance of Monterey County's disregard for recreational considerations in their lake "management" practices. Moreover, NRWMAC expressed concern over the potential violation of the operating permit, which explicitly prohibits the wastage of water. NRWMAC is actively considering additional legal actions to

compel Monterey County to halt these releases before further damage is inflicted upon the lake. Stay tuned for further updates on this matter.

NRWMAC vs MCWRA Lawsuit Update

Our lawsuit persists as both sides pursue discovery. Though this part of the litigation has been very costly, our attorneys have gleaned insights into Monterey County's (MC) likely defense regarding the 2018 water release. However, MC's requests often mirror information they possess, and are unable or unwilling to produce, seemingly aimed at draining our resources. We persist in requesting information from MC which supports our argument regarding recreation as one of the primary reasons for land condemnation that was used to create Lake Nacimiento.

While we remain optimistic about the strength and outcome of our case, additional financial resources are crucial. Despite our continued efforts over the past 25 years of interaction, Monterey County has shown no willingness to settle or engage in meaningful dialogue. We anticipate court-ordered mediation will be where our case's strength will become undeniable.

Upcoming NRWMAC Events

The public response to the NRWMAC shirts and gear sales at the Running Deer Ranch gate each Memorial weekend has become an annual fundraising success story.

Heritage Ranch and Oak Shores gates will also take part in the Gear at the Gates NRWMAC shirts and gear fundraising sales bonanza this Memorial Day weekend on Friday.



At the Heritage Ranch marina, look for the NRWMAC tables and banner by the Quagga mussel kiosk 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. At Oak Shores look for Michele at the Oak Shores Clubhouse by the main marina. Come lend a hand at one of these community gates and give Running Deer Ranch some spirited (and lighthearted) competition for the fundraising kudos! If you'd like to help out at the gates, contact Gail Reese (RDR) j.jrandgail@verizon.net, Bruce McFadden (HR) bmc1212@sbcglobal.net or 805-415-1099; or Michele Lauffer (OS) mлаuffer5m@gmail.com or 805-400-4192. Of course, you can email us at info@nrwmac.org to sign-up or have questions about this special Lake Nacimiento event.

We are expecting a lot of local people to “stop by and buy” at the all three gates on Friday this year due to the recent news coverage of the NRWMAC lawsuit and the Save the Dragon campaign. Join us at the lake gates to get your own gear for the summer and help out raising funds for a worthy cause we all can get behind: the NRWMAC Save the Dragon lawsuit!

Your time and service donation for this event is greatly appreciated! Everyone is welcome to participate in this fun event with Lake Nacimiento neighbors.

Mussel Up!

NRWMAC’s long-term commitment to Quagga mussel awareness and prevention continues with ongoing training and certification classes. If you are interested in becoming an inspector, re-certifying or the resident vessel program, please register with San Luis Obispo County at druedas@co.slo.ca.us or contact the NRWMAC for more information.

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



Make a Donation Today

Generous people like you are the ONLY source of funds supporting the NRWMAC 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 NRWMAC's legal expenses.

NRWMAC needs your donation NOW!

Your donation, in any amount, can be made at the following locations: Thank you!

GoFundMe



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

Private Donation

(via PayPal)



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

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