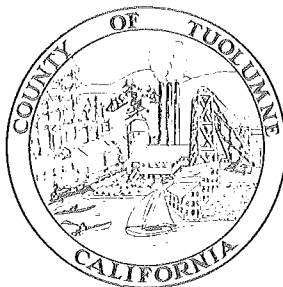


Tuolumne County
Administration Center
2 South Green Street
Sonora, California 95370



Alicia L. Jamar, *Chief Deputy*
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

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**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF TUOLUMNE**

Sherri Brennan, *First District*
John L. Gray, *Fourth District*

Randy Hanvelt, *Second District*

Evan Royce, *Third District*
Karl Rodefer, *Fifth District*

April 7 2015

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

Dear Mr. Parks:

The Tuolumne County Board of Supervisors supports the proposed Notice of Intent to adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration for Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) Company's Pinecrest Lake Level Modification Project. By modifying the minimum pre Labor Day lake level from the current 5,608 feet to the lower range of between 5,600 and 5,606 feet, PG&E and ultimately Tuolumne Utilities District are provided much needed flexibility to provide water to downstream customers.

The current drought has been particularly difficult for TUD and its customers due to the reliance on reserves mainly in Lyon's Reservoir which receives little water during the dry summer months. In 2014, TUD implemented a water conservation program and its customers responded by using 30 percent less water. This led to customer hardships ranging from agriculture to loss of residential gardens. TUD and other water utilities suffered financial losses due to less water usage.

This Notice of Intent (NOI) will also provide recreational benefits to Pinecrest Lake users. It calls for the removal of tree stumps and boulders which would become part of the beachscape should the lake levels be reduced. In addition, the plan calls for placing more sand at the lower elevation levels.

The NOI is responsive to Tuolumne County's May 21, 2013 letter sent on this topic. The Tuolumne County Board of Supervisors speaks for the consumptive and recreational/tourism interests of this County and believes that the NOI provides a

Mr. Jeffrey Parks
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balanced approach. This proposed action balances the needs of the various users of Pinecrest Lake's water and the winners include recreation, municipal consumption, public safety, and Tuolumne County's economy. Pinecrest Lake is a critical piece in this County's water puzzle. It is heartening for various public and private agencies to work together for a common beneficial solution. This Board looks forward to seeing final approval of a flexible lower elevation for Pinecrest Lake during the summer months.

Sincerely,


John L. Gray
Chairman

cc: Tom Scesa, General Manager, Tuolumne Utilities District
Tuolumne County Visitor's Bureau
Tuolumne County Chamber of Commerce

I hereby certify that according to the provisions of Government Code Section 25103, delivery of this document has been made.

ALICIA L. JAMAR
Clerk of the Board
By: 