



Nacimiento Regional Water Management Advisory Committee (NRWMAC)

Newsletter



An Official Publication of the Nacimiento Regional Water Management Advisory Committee

December 2015

WELCOME!!

The Nacimiento Regional Water Management Advisory Committee (NRWMAC) represents visitors, property owners and enthusiasts of all sorts that enjoy Lake Nacimiento. Our goal is to maximize the water level in Lake Nacimiento throughout the summer.

We hold one seat on the Monterey County Water Resources Agency Reservoir Operation Committee (Res Ops). This committee meets monthly and advises the Monterey County Water Resources Agency (MCWRA) on lake operations, maintenance issues, and other issues regarding Lake Nacimiento, and Lake San Antonio. At least one of the NRWMAC Directors travels to Salinas to attend this monthly meeting.

Since 2007 NRWMAC in partnership with San Luis Obispo County Public Works, and Monterey County Water Resources Agency (MCWRA) continues to provide Training Programs and Community Information Presentations on the threat that Quagga Mussels present to Lake Nacimiento.

With this issue we would like to provide you with some information on activities happening around the lake so that you might become better informed regarding issues that affect owners and people who recreate on Lake Nacimiento.

NRWMAC Board of Directors

The NRWMAC Board of Directors consists of representatives from communities around the lake. The Directors bring input from their communities to the monthly NRWMAC Board meetings and provide information back to their respective communities on issues NRWMAC is working, and information on activities going on within MCWRA. The Board members are all volunteers, and receive no compensation. We are actively seeking additional Board members from those communities who do not have a representative on our Board. Current Board members and their contact info is as follows:

Nielsen, Mark
President
Rancho Del Lago
nrwmac@gmail.com

Kopack, Tim
Director
South Shore Village
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Laguna Vista Boat Club
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Humfrey, Phil
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Greene, Jeff
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jeffgreene40@gmail.com

Bullard, Don
Director
Running Deer Ranch
710dkbullard@gmail.com

INTER-LAKE TUNNEL PROJECT

MCWRA is currently proposing that a tunnel be built between Lake Nacimiento and Lake San Antonio. The stated purpose of the tunnel is to capture flood water that would normally go down the Salinas River, from Lake Nacimiento to the ocean, and divert it over to Lake San Antonio. Since Lake San Antonio does not fill as rapidly as Lake Nacimiento it has the ability to store the water that would normally go down river and into the ocean.

In June of 2015 MCWRA made a presentation to a Town Hall Meeting held at Heritage Ranch, hosted by NRWMAC. Unfortunately the meeting raised more questions and very few answers were provided. We were told at that time that very little work had been done and answers would be forthcoming.

While everyone seems to be in favor of capturing water that would normally flow to the ocean, the issues of how the tunnel would be built, at what lake level would the intake be established, and how the lake levels and lake operations would be managed are the key questions that must be answered by MCWRA. Additionally, the issues concerning the property owners under whose land the tunnel would be built need to be addressed.

To that end, NRWMAC has developed a **POSITION PAPER** outlining the issues that need to be addressed to satisfy owners around Lake Nacimiento, people who recreate and fish on Lake Nacimiento, and property owners on the proposed tunnel route. The **POSITION PAPER** is included with this newsletter. Please take the time to read the paper. It will give you a fuller understanding of all the issues involved. **It is not enough for MCWRA to just say “we are going to capture flood water”!!**

To date, NRWMAC has met with the property owners whose land the tunnel will cross, and they unanimously agreed that they would not deal with MCWRA individually, and that NRWMAC would represent them in dealing with MCWRA. NRWMAC and the property owners have met with MCWRA, but no answers are yet available. NRWMAC and our engineers have also met with MCWRA and their project management people regarding engineering issues. More meetings will be held in the near future. We hope to keep everyone informed as things move forward. Please contact any of the NRWMAC Directors if you want to become involved or provide input to the NRWMAC Board that can be included with our questions.

NRWMAC perspective on MCWRA Interlake Tunnel project

Final v 1.0 6/3/2015

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We support the Interlake Tunnel and feel it can help facilitate our goals

Our Goal is to save and store water that would otherwise spill over dam in the event of a large rain event with a nearly full Nacimiento Reservoir. That is to move flood control flows from Nacimiento Reservoir and store them in San Antonio Reservoir.

Operational Concerns

We would like an agreed upon operational plan for the releases from both lakes based on various factors.

"Transfer water" moving from Nacimiento to San Antonio via the tunnel would be credited towards reduced releases from Lake Nacimiento during the summer months

Technical / Design Concerns

12 foot diameter tunnel conservatively costs at most 30% more than a 10 ft diameter tunnel for machine and materials, yet the increase in capacity and efficiency is on the order of 40% more. Making it more cost effective and allowing a higher transfer rate.

Intakes (structure above the tunnel entry point into the ground)

Water transfer should not begin until the lake achieved an elevation of 795. This would define an invert elevation of 778 which would provide 5 feet of head for a 12 foot diameter tunnel. This will allow for a shorter tunnel and still have enough capacity to support inflows from a heavy rain event. The last 5 feet of lake elevation is 7% of the lake volume and equivalent to 28,050 acre-ft of storage.

Tunnel Length

Lower inverts demand a longer tunnel as they are closer to the middle of each lake

- longer tunnels cost more money to dig
- the current proposal has a tunnel that is 2,000 feet longer than may be necessary
- at \$10,000 per foot to drill/dig tunnel - 2,000 ft extra length costs \$20 Million which would be better used for a larger diameter tunnel

Valves for flow control

A valve on the downstream end does not make sense without a valve at the upstream end

The tunnel remains pressurized with water all the time without an upstream valve

- If a problem occurs within the tunnel (e.g. a leak due to earthquake etc.) then one could not service the tunnel without an upstream valve
- Its more prudent to have a valve at the upper end for maintenance and repair
- Ideally the tunnel would have a valve at both ends

Land owners in vicinity of Tunnel Concerns

These landowners are concerned that they could lose significant land value if their property becomes unstable due to tunnel issues.

There is no insurance they can buy for this

Need a study to understand the effects of a tunnel on the current wells

Property owners are concerned about their water wells becoming less productive

- about changing hydrology due to tunneling
- about core sample drilling
- some have well depths in the range of the tunnel elevation

Property Owners want an insurance policy to:

Indemnify and hold harmless the property owners to issues related to the pipeline

- in case wells dry up
- replacement of wells
- compensation for loss of water
- interim costs for water delivery
- structural damage to property
- repairs to property

Looking for compensation for an easement / tunnel below their property

All people/landowners on the hill above the tunnel are assuming risk

The tunnel will affect people directly above and on the same hillside

These people would like to have a discussion regarding compensation

Project Funding

Landowner consent is required for any government funding

Next steps

- NRWMAC would like a sit down meeting within the next 30 days between MCWRA and/or Res Ops personnel to discuss details of the anticipated design and the operational plan.
- NRWMAC would like to have these issues addressed before the contract is awarded but no later than 30 days from now.

LAKE PATROL PRESENCE ON THE LAKE

Over the last two years the Monterey County Parks Department, who provide law enforcement and Quagga Mussel compliance on the lake, have drastically reduced the Lake Ranger staff and other Parks Department employees. The Rangers provide critical support to communities around the lake and to boaters and fisherman.

The staff has been reduced to the point that there are no Ranger boats on the lake Monday through Thursday of each week, and only one boat on the lake on the weekends. In order to put a boat on the lake it takes two Rangers. Additionally, they need to have at least one Ranger at the Marina. That is a minimum total of three. Monday thru Thursday there is only one Ranger on duty. While the Rangers report that Quagga mussel inspections at the Marina have not been affected, reports back from boaters say that the inspections are sketchy at best.

SLO County, who used to have a Sheriff's boat on the lake from Friday through Monday, have only had a boat on the lake on the big weekends.

The Rangers and Sheriff are the only law enforcement on the lake. Even when there is more than one Ranger on duty they are "encouraged" to stay at the Marina and only go out if they are called. Over the years, unfortunately, there have been quite a number of deaths on the lake for various reasons from reckless boaters, intoxication, boating accidents and drownings. When there is no law enforcement presence on the lake it becomes a free-for-all. For some people, it might seem great that there is no enforcement, but for the great majority of people who are on the lake it is reassuring to know that in the event of an emergency or catastrophe that there are trained people available to help.

That brings us to the next issue, and that is the time that it takes to train new Rangers. Staff has supposedly been cut because of low lake levels. However, it is no easy task to staff up when the lake level come back up. Because they are law enforcement it takes almost a year from the time Monterey County Park advertises for new Ranger until they can actually be on the lake. The applicants have to go through the interview process, vetting, weapons training, and the Academy before they can perform their duties.

NRWMAC has gone to the Monterey County Board of Supervisors for the last two years to try and get them to reconsider funding, but to no avail.

This is a critical issue. If you want to help, **please write to: District 3 - Supervisor Simon Salinas, 168 W. Alisal, 3rd Floor, Salinas, Ca 93901 or email to:**

www.district3.co.monterey.ca.us

NRWMAC needs your help!

Do you own property or someday want to own property at Lake Nacimiento?

Do you love the beautiful days on the Lake when you get to take your family and friends?

Would you like to see the level of Nacimiento higher in the summer time?

What is NRWMAC?

NRWMAC is a registered non-profit corporation. We, the Board of Directors, are volunteers who give our time at our expense because we believe that you, as property owners and Lake Enthusiasts have the right to a Lake that has enough water to use.

What has NRWMAC done for you?

1) We stand up for you at all of the Lake-related meetings held in Monterey and San Luis Obispo Counties. There is constant pressure from Monterey County for more water. The meetings we attend occur monthly in Salinas but in between are many other technical and operational meetings and seminars that require our presence.

2) We saw early on that the Quagga Mussel could be the end of our beautiful lake. We visited contaminated lakes as far away as Lake Mead to see the damage done. We, in conjunction with SLO County, and Monterey County, created a plan and we train all inspectors for all boats entering our lake. Our plan is updated yearly and the training is on-going. This alone is nearly a full time (unpaid) job.

3) We have brought back the idea of a pipeline between Nacimiento and San Antonio, as another way to manage the amount of water stored. This idea has been taken up by Monterey County, who has designed their own version, ...much different from NRWMAC's vision. Their version may not benefit Lake Nacimiento owners and enthusiasts. This promises to be an expensive process and a lengthy series of meetings and ***we will need your help.***

4) We support the rights of all of the property owners and recreational enthusiasts. At Lake Nacimiento.

What you can do to help us??

We *desperately* need your help and financial support. How can you do this?

You can become a recipient of our Newsletter-to keep costs down, it will only be distributed by email.

You can support us at public meetings.

You can become a Director, a representative and spokesperson for your group or club and encourage them to get involved.

You can ask your club to make a yearly donation to NRWMAC.

As an individual or family, you can donate whatever you can afford.

Tell all of your friends that we need help.

Please send your donations to:

**NRWMAC
7395 El Camino Real
P.O. Box PMB# 474
Atascadero CA 93422-4337**

If you have friends who did not receive this Newsletter but would like to, have them email NRWMAC.INFO@Gmail.com and put NRWMAC Newsletter in the subject line.