

Tim:

Happy New Year....

Michael Beckman called me to draw my attention to the posting on the Permittees WEB site regarding the "public" meeting on boat mooring held by PG&E and the Forest Service on Dec. 8.

As you can imagine, the proposed plan as outlined in Heidi's notes is cause for considerable concern for those of us that use boats on a regular basis. I don't know all the details but am hoping that the Permittees have the opportunity to provide input on the matter. Assuming that is the case, following are some points for consideration:

1. No mention is made regarding boats brought in by campers. How are they supposed to participate in a lottery system? Are they expected to launch and remove their boats every day? If they do not have access to mooring or slips at the marina (they are usually full) Is there enough parking for boat trailers with boats on them?
2. What about the Camps (Cal, Sylvester, Scouts) and their access to moorings? The Boy Scouts typically moor about 10 or more sailboats adjacent to the fishing monolith for several weeks during the summer. I believe the Girl Scouts and some of the camps also use this area to moor canoes. If we restrict mooring locations will there be enough room for them or if room is made for them will there be enough room for anyone else?
3. It seems that there has been no data taken regarding the number of current users and no information provided with regard to the potential number of moorings that can be or will be available. Shouldn't the plan be developed based on accommodations for those currently using boating on the lake as part of their Pinecrest recreational experience?

4. Since a lottery is proposed, I believe that it has already been determined that there will not be enough moorings to accommodate the current number of users. This is a reasonable assumption since the current flexibility associated with anchor points easily moved and removed after short term use will be gone once fixed buoys are in place.

5. A system that forces users to launch and remove their boats on a daily basis will increase traffic, congestion, air pollution, noise pollution, conflicts, and the need for additional personnel to handle all of these.

6. Who accepts the liability associated with these moorings? If the lake level goes down and the anchor line slacks to the point where my boat is damaged by an adjacent boat, is the Forest Service going to pay to repair my boat, PG&E, a contractor?

7. Are resources available to develop a system that allows for changes in water level? If not, this will reduce usability significantly and further restrict the recreational opportunities associated with boating.

8. It isn't apparent what problem is being resolved by this proposal. I am only aware that Karen Caldwell thought that the current boat mooring appeared "messy". The way beach goers setup on the beach is also messy, is that reason to require designated locations for sun bathing?

9. In summary:

The proposal to control boat moorings on Pinecrest Lake will reduce the recreational opportunities for users wishing to boat on the lake. The recreational experience for others not using boats will be diminished due to the negative impact of more people launching, removing, transporting, and storing boats in the area.

There will be additional expenses associated with installation and ongoing maintenance of the mooring structures and additional personnel needed to regulate usage and administer the plan.

I just can't see any upside to this for anyone. Even if I were a contractor offering this type service, I would run away from this "opportunity" as fast as possible.

Please feel free to share this if you want.

Bob Miller

I have just finished reading the summary minutes of the December 8, 2011 with USFS & PG&E Team public focus meeting wherein the idea of buoys and boats on Lake Pinecrest were discussed, and I am very disappointed.

Why weren't the PUBLIC and/or cabin owners made aware of this scheduled meeting? One cabin owner does not constitute the majority of people with concerns for the future of Lake Pinecrest. The issues covered in this meeting affect all users of the lake, whether they are cabin owners, swimmers, boaters, or day-users. Seems to me that with better input from more people, more information to broaden the concerns, better the outcomes that serve the community involved.

Resident cabin owners who are also boat owners of sailboats and small motorboats, have buoyed their boats in specific areas of the lake based on wind directions, lake levels, anchor stability, rigging, launching, and landing in reasonably safe conditions free of rocks and stumps. This input was not made available to the task force meeting of December 8th.

The FS suggested adding a couple of rigging docks to ease congestion at the marine. The FS just removed two such docks at the end of this summer that has been on the lake for many years. Does not one hand of the FS know what the other has planned for future operations? The docks had been used for the very purpose of rigging of small boats, but the FS decided to have them removed. Again, we have had little or no communication by the FS to inform us of the intent to remove the existing

docks. The docks should have been maintained and kept in place for the intended use for boat owners.

Could there be a better timeframe for all concerned to openly discuss the ideas of buoys, docks, and lottery for boat moorings?

J.M. Beckman

I have been made aware of potential changes that you are attempting to put into place. This is of major concern to me.

One major concern is the attempt to make changes when none are necessary. Summer vacation amounts to about 80 days during the year. Can't we all manage ourselves for those 80 days? It seems to have gone very well for the 58 years that I have gone to the cabin. Boat owners have always worked together and have helped each other out to make summer vacation wonderful for everyone. Karen Caldwell thought the shoreline looked 'messy'. Towels, dogs, kids and people are all 'messy', but by Aug. 20th it all returns to it's original look.

Another concern is this potential lottery system for buoys and boats. We have a small boat that we take to the cabin for 3 weeks every summer. My siblings also come to the cabin for their 3 weeks every summer and they also have boats. I see multiple problems with the proposed lottery system for buoys. Will each of my siblings and I have our own buoy? Would we share a buoy? Would we each get to submit our own name into the system? What do you suggest if you don't get a buoy? What if our boat gets damaged by another boat? Will you take responsibility for that? How many buoys are you planning on?

Please, worry less about the number of little boats that race every afternoon on the lake and focus on the number of cars that drive back and forth looking for parking spots (talk about pollution). Maybe we should limit the number of cars in Pinecrest to the number of parking spots that we have available?

We would definitely like to know when you will be discussing this venture....you need input from people who can help you with boat management ideas. Let's not 'guess' how this will work.

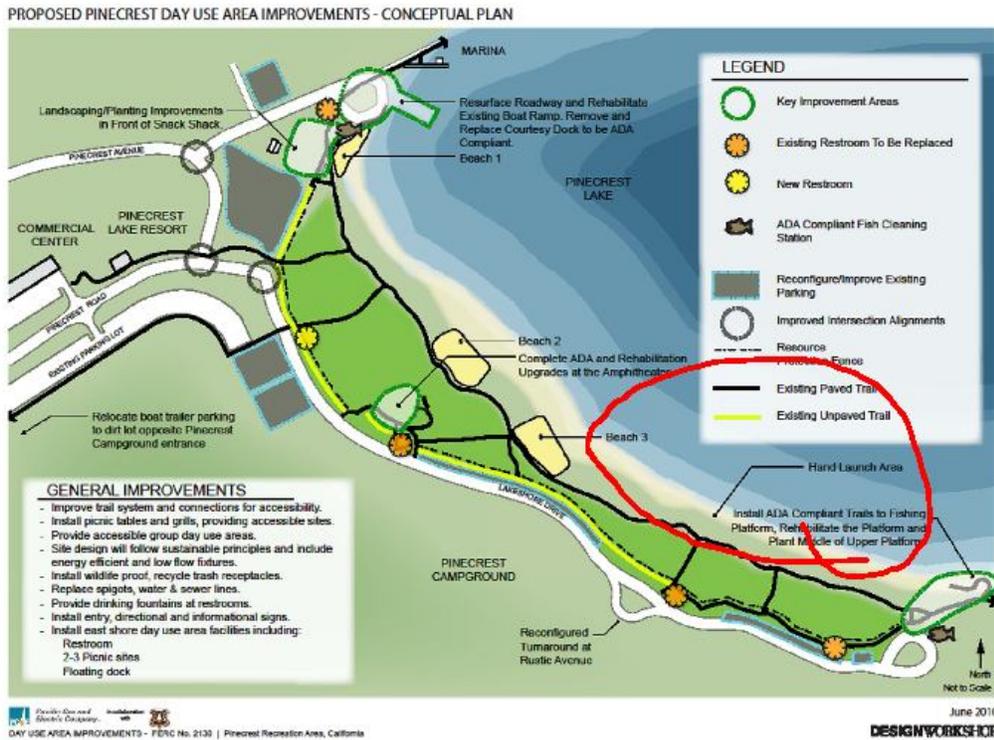
Please know that I have concerns about this issue and would like to be informed about meetings concerning the Shoreline Management.

Thank you,

Cindy Baker Morphy

FERC ISSUES

As you recall, FERC (the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission) did request an amendment to the 'Traffic, Parking & Circulation Plan' in its approval last year (possibly with public hearings & possibly with 'alternatives') prior to any



constructions by PG&E of the plan. While it is accurate that the 'normal' FERC process does not include a public comment, in this case your letters to FERC and legislators has succeeded and allows us an opportunity for greater input. Since that time a few folks have been selected to participate in providing input to the 'Shoreline Management Plan' needed by PG&E to further comply with FERC relicensing conditions.

Unfortunately, it is my belief, that our interests again have not been heard and public comment has been inadequate. The drawing highlights some but not all of the intended 'improvements'. The mooring of large party boats along the marina area have been a nuisance to the cabin owners along that area and we are seeking relief through Tuolumne County legislation. The addition of a second 'fish-cleaning station has been delayed due to our lack of sewer capacity in the peak months. The biggest area of consternation is with a plan to regulate the mooring of sailboats, canoes and fishing boats along the south shore [circled in red]. The USFS has encouraged PG&E designers to seek 'standard moors', determine capacity and authorize a franchise to rent mooring spots. They acknowledge a shortfall may occur

and suggest a 'lottery system' may be needed. Those of us involved have indicated that the current situation is tenable and not problematic. If you have an opinion please forward your thoughts to Randy Moore, Regional Forester in Vallejo [r.moore@fs.fed.us]. This is certainly going to cause problems for those of us who have used this area to moor our boats and enjoy the beach with our families. Additionally we have requested the return of the two floating docks used for boat launching and 'teenager rocking'.... which were confiscated without notice by the USFS.

THANKS-Tim

January 30, 2012

U S Forest Service
Pinecrest, Ca.

Dear Sirs,

I recently read a notice from the "Friends of Pinecrest", informing me that a public meeting was held on Dec 8, 2011, to discuss plans by PG & E and the US Forest Service to address boat mooring on the south shore.

As a cabin owner and active user of the lake for small boat sailing, I am concerned about the direction this process is taking and the amount of user input that has been solicited and incorporated into any proposed solutions. Have there been a history of complaints about the current practices? Has the multiple uses by scouting organizations, campers, El Toro racers, Laser racers and multiple other day use participants been considered?

Pinecrest is a magical place where one can come up for a day, a week or a month at a time, launch your small vessel (sailboat/ kayak/fishing boat/ex:) and easily access it for the duration of your stay. In many cases, cars are parked and boats are accessed on foot from a cabin or campsite. This is truly a unique quality that Pinecrest offers over many other destinations.

The option to install permanent mooring balls is problematic at best. With varying lake levels throughout the summer months, mooring balls would have to be located a considerable distance out to allow for lower lake levels. How will people access their boats? What do I do if I only come up for a weekend or a week? Do I need a mooring ball for the whole summer? Will all users without mooring balls be required to launch and remove boats every day? Will this not add to additional traffic, congestion and pollution. Do we really think that the 65 year old El Toro sailor will have the ability to launch their boats on a daily basis or swim out 50 yards to retrieve their boat?

In fact, the boats moored on Pinecrest Lake are more organized than it may appear. Moorings are moved in and out depending on water levels. Lanes for access to and from the beach are kept open and collective efforts are incorporated when big winds come up and disrupt the boats.

Regarding comments from the Forest Service that “the sailboats are disorganized”. Perhaps, but isn’t it great that people are out there having fun and using the facility. I think that a visit to the south beach in early morning or evening will reveal a tranquil, organized order to these boats and the associated user.

In closing, I would like to remind everyone that Pinecrest offers a unique boating experience to all who participate. Things are as they were 40 years ago. Lets try not to fix something that is not broken.

Jay Watt
Lot 400
Pinecrest, Ca

Mr. Randy Moore February 1, 2012
Regional Forester, Pacific Southwest Region

Dear Mr. Moore:

I have just received my Pinecrest Permittees Association Minutes with a cover letter summarizing the latest FERC issues surrounding the “Traffic, Parking & Circulation Plan” that the Forest Service wants to implement.

As I expressed in my September 19, 2011 letter to you, many of us cabin owners feel this whole idea of providing additional launching paths to get boats to the beach can only make existing congestion worse. During the summer months, cars are constantly

circling around the turnaround area looking for parking places. If there are hand launching areas, I can just see people stopping in the middle of the road, to unload their boats, first, and then look for parking afterwards. Not only could this be a nightmare, it could provide a hazardous situation for emergency vehicles.

Pinecrest Lake is a small lake. Over the years, I have noticed that more and more people are opting to use paddle boats, kayaks, canoes, rubber rafts, small sailboats, or small motorboats, to enjoy the lake. If you were to limit the size of watercraft permitted on the lake such as party boats, hobicats, and large motor boats, I believe you could see a marked difference in watercraft congestion.

Years ago, a ruling was made banning jet skis on the lake. Not only were these boats a noise nuisance, they were hazardous on such a small lake. In the old days we had one party boat, the Strawberry Queen. People could take rides around the lake. It was the only over-sized boat on the lake. With hobicats and large motor boats, you have the speed factor. Not only does a kayaker, a wind surfer, or any other non-motorized watercraft user, have to make sure they are out of the boat's path, they have to deal with the aftermath of waves. Again, this could become a hazardous situation if one is not paying attention.

In my September letter to you, I also expressed that no one was complaining about too many boats in the water or mooring problems. The El Toros have been a part of the Pinecrest experience for as long as I can remember. They have always added a sense of community and tradition. To regulate a specific mooring area makes no sense. People moor their boats near their cabins. Allowing the spread of boats around the lake eases the congestion and is more aesthetic.

Regulated fishing areas don't make sense either. As a person who fishes, I've found fish in many different spots around the lake. This idea is as bad as the concrete fishing pier monstrosity. I've yet to see anyone catch a fish from this pier. If anything, people trip over the submerged concrete path extending from the pier.

As far as swimming, people swim around boats and swim to boats. For those people preferring a more structured swimming area, they have the option of picking from the two beaches surrounded by the large, white buoys that restrict watercraft in that area. Also, until this past summer, we had the two floating docks, that have been in the lake for years, until Karen Caldwell ordered them confiscated--without notice. We are in the process of requesting the return of these floating docks as they have not only added to the swimming experience, but have provided a convenient boat rigging and launching area that is away from the shoreline.

Per the Pinecrest Permittees Association's urging, I hope that you will consider my thoughts and input in arriving at a fair FERC relicensing agreement for all of us cabin owners who care so much about Pinecrest and its well being.

Susan Rice-Curran
Pinecrest cabin owner for over 60 years