



4/20/14

Dear Permittee,

We are heading into the ‘good days’ at Pinecrest Lake, how many remember that it was called ‘Strawberry Lake at Pinecrest’? As you can see from these photos [taken April 24], work is



progressing well and by the time we meet on July 5<sup>th</sup> we should have a new ‘Amphitheater’ and new picnic areas, keep your fingers crossed.

#### **ENCLOSURES**

Enclosed are the Minutes of the March 21, 2014 Board

Meeting; a summary table of the water usage, our 2013 Independent Audit, our Annual Water Quality Report and a ‘Water Conservation Reminder’ for your cabin.

#### **OFFICERS**

The qualifications of candidates have been sent to our Nominating Committee for this year’s election of Board members. The Class #1[Cabin] Directors interested in standing for re-election are **Howard Kirk, Ken Irwin**. Class #3 [Campground] **Ken Hutz** of the UC Chalets who has served on an interim basis in the stead of Nathan Powell. The report from the Nominating Committee will be presented to the Board at the next meeting [Saturday, May 24] for placement on the Ballots for our election at the General Meeting [Saturday, July 5]. We thank our Nominating Committee **Paul Schaefer** [chair], **Bob Miller, Ed Thomas, Doug Downs** and **Keith Hopkins** for their work in vetting our candidates.

#### **FEES**

You may have noticed that our fees were stable this year. We are hopeful we can keep fees as low as possible, since we Board members are victims of our own fee-setting practices. The Board has determined that we will base our General [Water] Fund and Sewer Fund fees on actual **METERED** consumption next year [see below]. This is important in a drought year to protect our status as responsible water users. We are facing new challenges every year in ever stricter sewer treatment and water quality standards and it is the role of the Board to maintain facilities that are current. We are happy with our completion of most road repairs last year when asphalt prices were low. We are also cutting wastewater staffing on a temporary basis and will use the salary savings to remodel the Waste Water Employee residence in Cold Springs. As you recall we purchased this house on an oversize lot in 2009 for \$275,000 borrowing \$266,750 from ourselves and paying cash. We have budgeted and returned \$150k of this loan to the sewer fund through 2013, we will be at \$180,000 paid after this year.

## **WATER CONSERVATION & METERING**

The Governor of California has declared a 'Drought Emergency' which causes all communities to develop conservation plans. Although we are not strictly required to comply, the Board has determined to fulfill our part in this general effort by triggering our long awaited 'metered billing' program. As you can see from the attached '2013 Water Use Table' most cabins use less than 50,000 gallons per year. The Board will consider a tiered billing system based on next year's water use. This change in billing has been anticipated by the Board for several years and the drought has encouraged us to take the step. We also would like to remind you that our permits with the USFS do NOT allow 'landscape watering' which eliminates this too from our arsenal of conservation techniques. The USFS will be on the look-out this year. Our action in this metered fee approach will help us in our on-going battle to keep water in the Lake as long as possible. Our downstream neighbors have not been able to present evidence of a leak proof and waste free system which matches ours. This will further enhance our position.

## **SUMMER SERVICES**

The South Shore will have water and sewer on May 9th. Please remember that you cannot discharge into the sewer system if there is an electrical failure. The pumps will stop and the sewage will back-up the pump station causing an overflow which will risk environmental harm and regulatory fines. If the red light is on the pump station it is not working.

Regular garbage pick-up for all areas will start Monday, May 12. These weekly pick-ups will continue through mid-September. An additional weekly pick up will begin on Friday, June 6<sup>th</sup>. Please recall that maximum can weight is 60 pounds and each can must have two handles so your staff can hoist them into the truck. 'Unbroken' cardboard boxes will not be picked up, break them or burn them, they make great fire starters.

## **PPA WEBSITE**

Many of you have questions from time-to-time. I try to provide information as I receive it on our organization website. The address is >>>>: [www.pinecrestpermittees.org](http://www.pinecrestpermittees.org) . There is a registration link in the upper right hand corner [the little banner behind the little airplane]. When you register you will be able to establish your own username and password which you can use as long as you wish. You can change it later if you need.

## **SOUTH SHORE PARKING PERMITS**

Your 'forever' parking permits can be re-used from last year. If they are lost there will be a \$35.00 fee for a new one which you can procure at our office. The same rules apply as in the past. We are just assuming you don't need the briefing each year. Their will be USFS enforcement this year. We'll see how this works out.

## **FIREBOAT**



You will see from our last few Board meetings that we have had to give up on our continual repairs of the 1960 era inboard we use for a fireboat. It was originally donated by PPA to the County in 1974 through the efforts of **Ed Parish**. Our contribution to this ~\$100,000 purchase will be accomplished through the efforts of the TCFD Pinecrest Fire Station #55 personnel and the communities of Cold Spring, Strawberry & Pinecrest to garner over \$42,000 in donations and the donation of approximately \$43,000 from the Pinecrest Permittees

Association and funding of \$15,000 from Tuolumne County. It may not be exactly like this but we hope to see something akin this on the Lake this summer. This will serve to protect cabins and forest from fire and serve as a rescue vehicle.

**CABIN FEE ACT**

The Congressional Budget Office has stymied us again. They reported that the Senate Bill [S.1341] was not ‘revenue neutral’ so we are resubmitting. As we have mentioned in the past, delaying passage of the bill into 2014 would have negative effects on scoring. This has proven to be true. Also, it must be understood that as the gatekeeper for revenue evaluations of legislation, created by the “Pay As You Go” rules of Congress, the CBO does not disclose exactly how it arrives and its conclusions, so we have done our best to interpret the CBO report and propose revisions to the bill to solve for the identified revenue gap. The challenges have been and continue to be formidable. You can see a full update from the National Forest Homeowners at <http://www.nationalforesthowners.org/?page=CFAUpdateMarch2014> . **George Cardinet** has been ‘bird-dogging’ this for us, although ‘bull-dogging’ would be more appropriate.

Meanwhile, have a great summer while the situation is status quo and thank you for your interest in Pinecrest and feel free to contact me or any other Board Member with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Tim Fisher, Board President

ATTACHED:

Minutes of the March 21, 2014 Board Meeting  
 2013 Consumer Report on our Water Quality  
 Water Use Table  
 Water Conservation Sign

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