

## Lake Berryessa News 2014 Summary

### Excitement at The Corners! New Businesses Arrive, Come By To Say Hello, by Peter Kilkus

The good news is that I had to update the Lake Berryessa News' detailed map of Lake Berryessa to include four new businesses. There's a new version of the map available for download at [www.lakeberryessanews.com](http://www.lakeberryessanews.com).

Berryessa Highlands folks will finally have a place to go again for groceries, food, drink, and socializing.

Yevo Jeworowski, formerly of Boone's Saloon fame at the Spanish Flat Village Center, recently purchased the Corners property previously known as the Crossroads. He will open Steele Canyon Brewery and Steele Canyon Pizza in October. He and his partner are installing a mini-brewery now. The Steele Canyon Saloon has a liquor license and will serve a full range of cocktails along with delicious craft brews, pizza, and appetizers.

Greeley Wright and his family have opened the Lake Berryessa Market on weekends. Greeley is a very outgoing person who is enthusiastic about his new venture. He and his family recently moved to the Berryessa Highlands from San Jose. You can stop by on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays now for a range of items. Greeley will formally open the full Lake Berryessa Market in October.

The fourth business is also a Greeley Wright venture - an on-line ordering and delivery service. He calls it Greeley's Groceries. The web site will be [www.LakeBerryessaMarket.com](http://www.LakeBerryessaMarket.com). His business card describes it thus:

"Greeley's grocery and delivery service is a rural grocer committed to serving the communities of Berryessa Highlands, Circle Oaks, and the surrounding areas. Customers can order groceries/products from our web site, by phone, or at the market. Orders are available for pick-up at the market the following day or can be delivered to your home for an additional charge. Items available for order include, but are not limited, to groceries, dry-goods, appliances, and lumber."

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### Feds collecting ideas for Lake Berryessa resorts: New operators may take over in 2016, by Peter Jensen, Jan. 12, 2014, Napa Register

For Napa County residents with opinions about what kinds of recreation should be offered at Lake Berryessa in the coming years, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation is willing to listen. Reclamation is holding an open house Thursday evening at the Elks Lodge in Napa devoted to eliciting the public's ideas and thoughts on what the future of the lake's resorts should be.

Reclamation will have seven stations set up to provide the public with information about recreational opportunities at the lake, its history and how Reclamation manages recreation. The federal agency is looking for comments on five of the seven resorts at the lake that remain without long-term concessionaires — Steele Canyon, Putah Canyon, Berryessa Point, Monticello Shores and Spanish Flat.

These resorts were under a contract with Arizona-based Pensus Group until Reclamation terminated that contract for nonperformance in December 2012. That has left Steele Canyon, Putah Canyon and Spanish Flat under interim concession contracts that offer basic services such as tent camping and day use, as well as boat launching at Steele Canyon and Putah Canyon. Berryessa Point and Monticello Shores remain closed, while the two remaining resorts, Pleasure Cove and Markley Cove, remain open.

Reclamation spokeswoman Janet Sierzputowski said the agency is willing to consider any recommendation, no matter how outlandish — a roller coaster, for example — but what it ultimately chooses to offer to prospective contract bidders will be focused on what's financially realistic. "It's not just what you want to see," Sierzputowski said. "It's what you don't want to see. We still want to hear what people are going to say."

Sierzputowski said the open house is the first step in beginning Reclamation's environmental process for the new recreation contracts at Lake Berryessa. The goal is to have a draft of a new prospectus — a formal offering of what Reclamation expects in terms of recreation at the lake — by May, she said.

The final document would be issued to potential bidders in March 2015, with proposals being evaluated in July 2015 and in the months following. The contracts are scheduled to be awarded in November and December of 2015, and are slated to start in spring of 2016.

“Comments will help shape the prospectus. This is all geared to that prospectus and telling potential concessionaires what we want to provide,” Sierzputowski said. She said Reclamation will try to expedite the process as much as it can, but it can be a lengthy one. “We are going to try and speed things up as fast as we can,” Sierzputowski said. “It's going to take awhile before we can get the contracts in. It could be contracts or contract. It's a huge process.”

In the meantime, five of the seven resorts — excluding Monticello Shores and Berryessa Point — will remain open under interim contracts this summer.

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#### Timetable for improved Berryessa recreation draws fire, by Peter Jensen, Jan. 17, 2014, Napa Register

The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation continues to roll out plans for revitalizing recreation at Lake Berryessa, but the two years it says is needed to achieve those goals has drawn the ire of longtime residents and business interests at the lake. At a community forum in Napa Thursday evening, Reclamation unveiled visions for recreational opportunities at five of the seven resorts at the lake that look similar to what was offered in the past.

Tourists who have been coming to the lake in years past would recognize camping and RV sites, some cabins, restaurants, boat launching and slips, retail stores, swimming areas and hiking trails. The problem, said Berryessa Highlands resident Jerry Rehmke, is that none of those plans will happen soon enough. In the meantime, for this summer and likely the next, three resorts will only be able to offer basic services such as tent camping or boat launching, while two others will remain closed. Two others, Pleasure Cove and Markley Cove, will offer more services such as houseboat and cabin rentals.

Reclamation's schedule is to have its final prospectus — a document to solicit bids on the resort operations and improvements — ready by spring of 2015. The contracts won't be executed until the following spring, which is also when construction is scheduled to start. “It's taken BOR so long to get anything on the road,” Rehmke said at the forum. “What looks good on paper may work. It's going to take many years before anything happens and that's the problem.”

Jeff Laird, Reclamation's park manager for Lake Berryessa, said the agency is preaching patience to residents. The process involves completing site planning, finishing a market assessment and a financial feasibility study, a potentially lengthy environmental review period, as well as producing the prospectus. He said Reclamation officials have a “super desire to move as quickly as you can.” But, the agency can't afford missteps in the process, Laird said. “You have to balance that with well-thought-out planning,” Laird said.

The Lake Berryessa Chamber of Commerce isn't accepting that line of logic. On Monday, the chamber's board of directors voted unanimously to express no confidence in Reclamation's ability to manage recreation at the lake. In a letter to U.S. Department of Interior Secretary Sally Jewell, the chamber asked for management of the lake's recreation to be transferred to the U.S. Bureau of Land Management, or the National Parks Service.

“Tourism has plummeted,” the letter states. “The local economy, which was developed to serve visitors at the lake, has been devastated. The few businesses left are struggling to survive. Reclamation is a water agency. Its

bureaucracy, policies and lengthy process are designed to provide a clean and plentiful water supply. It is not, as Reclamation has repeatedly told us, a recreation agency.”

Indeed, said the chamber’s board president, Craig Morton, each passing summer with minimal recreational opportunities at the lake further erodes its reputation among tourists, making them less likely to return. Professional bass-fishing groups won’t bother coming to Lake Berryessa anymore, as the tent camping that’s offered isn’t enough for them, Morton said.

“We’ve already had the nuclear explosion,” said Morton, referring to the lost recreational opportunities. “If another one hits, we’re not going to notice because it’s already been devastated. It’s got to start to move faster. We can’t accept another failure.”

Laird acknowledged the residents’ frustration, and said so much of it stems from the failure of Reclamation’s former concessionaire, the Arizona-based Pensus Group. Pensus was selected to run five of the resorts on the lake’s western shoreline, and would eventually assume control of a sixth. In preparation for Pensus, the former concessionaires had to tear out all of the resorts’ infrastructure such as cabins, restaurants, and retail stores.

Pensus promised to rebuild but never delivered, causing Reclamation to terminate the contract in December 2012. “We all would have wished that Pensus would have worked out,” Laird said.

Laird said the forum Thursday was valuable in gathering the public’s ideas for recreation at the lake. Those ideas will be incorporated into the prospectus, market analysis and site plans, he said. “It feels really good to have some concepts on paper, and it’s good to get the public’s input,” Laird said.

In Morton’s view, however, the lengthy planning process amounts to dithering while the lake’s businesses and residents suffer. “What I see right now is unacceptable, and the timeline is unacceptable,” Morton said.

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Limited demand could lead to fewer resorts at Berryessa: Market study will determine if sites will be shuttered, by Peter Jensen, Feb. 3, 2014, Napa Register

As it prepares to line up long-term contractors for the resorts at Lake Berryessa, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation will be crunching the numbers to gauge the potential tourist demand for recreation at the lake. But if the financial analysis isn’t favorable, Reclamation will consider shuttering some resorts and focusing on providing great recreational services at the others, said Peggi Brooks, chief of the agency’s Recreation Resources Division.

Over the next few months, Reclamation will be doing market research, site planning and determining the financial feasibility of the resorts’ redevelopment. That will be used to develop a prospectus potential concessionaires will bid on, with the goal of having long-term contracts in place by end of 2015.

Brooks said Wednesday the financial analysis will be key in what kinds of recreational opportunities tourists will experience in the future. Reclamation’s former contractor, the Pensus Group, pledged to redevelop five of the seven resorts, but failed to do so, she said. Brooks spoke last week at a meeting of the Berryessa-Blue Ridge Partnership, with officials from Reclamation, the U.S. Bureau of Land Management, the Napa County Regional Park and Open Space District, CalFire, and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. The meeting was held at the Napa County Library.

“It does no good to do great market research ... if no one can afford to build them,” Brooks said. “We will definitely be looking at that information and acting accordingly.” Until the analysis says otherwise, however, Brooks said Reclamation will plan to have all seven resorts open under long-term contracts, which is called for in the agency’s 2006 visitor services plan. Five resorts are open currently. The resorts are only a small portion of the planning efforts underway for Lake Berryessa and the wilderness land stretching north of it, as Brooks’ fellow speakers showed.

U.S. Rep. Mike Thompson, D-St. Helena, is carrying a bill in Congress that would create a National Conservation Area for the Berryessa Snow Mountain region, which would cover 300,000 acres of federal land in Napa, Lake, Mendocino, Solano and Yolo counties. The bill is still alive in the current congressional session, which lasts until the end of this year, but no vote has been scheduled for it.

Rich Burns of the Bureau of Land Management's Ukiah field office said improving access to these lands is a key focus for his agency, as well as combating marijuana grows. Burns said the number of grows has dropped considerably in the last five years, from approximately 600,000 plants to 200,000 presently. "We were basically ground zero for marijuana production," Burns said. "That's one threat that we've seen that has taken a different turn."

But John Woodbury, general manager of the county Park and Open Space District, said he's seen more growers simply move their operations onto district land, including its holdings in Spanish Valley near the Berryessa Estates community. The Napa County Sheriff's Office busted a grow last year, Woodbury said, and left the cleanup to the parks district. But crews devoted to cleaning up the grow got lost in trying to find it, and instead stumbled upon a different grow, he said.

Woodbury said the parks district has agreed to be the lead agency for the environmental review of a trail that's planned to ring the shores of Lake Berryessa, and is also aiming to perhaps purchase some land from the city of Vallejo. The city's land includes Lake Curry, which sits within Napa County borders, but Vallejo is considering selling it off.

Those plans are on hold until Vallejo successfully moves beyond its bankruptcy proceedings, but Woodbury said the parks district wants to be ready if and when it does.

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Mike Thompson asks for new agency to oversee Lake Berryessa: Bureau of Reclamation didn't do the job, congressman says, by Peter Jensen, Mar. 8, 2014, Napa Register

U.S. Rep. Mike Thompson, D-St. Helena, has introduced legislation that would wrest control of managing recreation at Lake Berryessa from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, and give it to the U.S. Bureau of Land Management. Thompson introduced the bill Thursday, and in a news release blamed Reclamation's management for the steep drops in tourism at the lake in recent years.

The Bureau of Land Management, which oversees 264 million acres of public land in the U.S., is better equipped to manage recreation, Thompson said. The agency "has extensive experience managing outdoor activities on public lands — including camping, hiking, hunting, fishing, boating, wildlife viewing, and more," he said in the news release. Reclamation had turned over management of five of the seven resorts at the lake to an Arizona-based company, the Pensus Group, but it failed to redevelop them. The contract between Reclamation and Pensus was terminated in December 2012, and the agency has been in an extensive planning effort to line up a new contractor since then.

One of the resorts has a permanent operator, but four of the seven resorts remain open at the lake under interim contractors. Three of the locations provide limited services such as camping, day use and boat launching. The other two locations are closed.

"The management status quo at Lake Berryessa needs to change," Thompson said in the statement. "Lake Berryessa is an important part of our county and we've waited too long for BOR to effectively execute its redevelopment plan. New management is needed, and a redevelopment plan that works for the lake, families and businesses needs to be implemented."

A spokeswoman in Reclamation's public affairs office declined to discuss the bill, citing agency policy on not commenting on pending legislation until it's taken an official position. Thompson's bill would allow Reclamation to continue to administer Monticello Dam and its facilities. The agency manages the reservoir in conjunction with the Solano County Water Agency. Transferring management of recreation to the Bureau of Land Management has long been a call of frustrated residents of Lake Berryessa. That had culminated most recently in the Lake Berryessa Chamber of Commerce's no-confidence vote in Reclamation's management this year.

The Napa County Board of Supervisors is scheduled to receive an update from Reclamation on progress it's made to bring in a new contractor on Tuesday. Supervisor Diane Dillon is supporting Thompson's bill, she said in the news release. "Transferring the management of Lake Berryessa from BOR to BLM is the right thing to do for the lake," Dillon said. "I thank Congressman Thompson for introducing this legislation and look forward to working with him to make sure the management transition is both quick and smooth."

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#### Lake Berryessa ready for summer amid transformation, by Barry Eberling, May 18, 2014, Napa Register

Lake Berryessa is poised to begin another summer tourist season, even as the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation for a second time launches an attempt to dramatically transform lake recreation. What's left for now is a stripped-down version of lake offerings. Two of the seven resorts – Pleasure Cove Marina and Markley Cove Marina – are at full strength, with three others offering camping and other limited services and two closed. A federal boat launch and day use areas remain open.

It's Lake Berryessa Lite for another summer. It will remain that way for at least a few summers more, even as Congress debates whether to transfer the Berryessa resort renovation efforts from the Bureau of Reclamation to the Bureau of Land Management.

Lake Berryessa in Napa County is more than a huge reservoir that provides water almost exclusively to Solano County farms and cities. It is also a major regional recreation area for fishing, boating, swimming and relaxation in general.

The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation four years ago leveled five of the seven resorts operated by private concessionaires on federal land, basically creating blank canvasses on which to create something new. It signed a contract with Arizona-based Pensus to build campsites, RV sites, marinas, hotels, a spa, a conference center and other amenities on the vacant land. But, unsatisfied with the progress being made, the Bureau of Reclamation terminated the Pensus contract in December 2012. Now it is once again trying to re-imagine what Lake Berryessa can be.

The latest timeline calls for awarding contracts to concessionaires for some if not all of the five closed or stripped-down resorts in 2016, with construction starting shortly thereafter and reborn resorts opening in 2017. During the previous resort redevelopment attempts, some people complained that too much planning happened without public input, even as the lake economy plummeted. This time, the Bureau of Reclamation is conducting community forums every few months.

The latest forum happened Wednesday at the Berryessa senior center. About 40 people attended, from Bureau of Reclamation officials to lake residents and lake business people.

#### The lake today

Jeff Laird, the bureau's Lake Berryessa park manager, talked about the offerings at the three stripped-down resorts with temporary concessionaires – Spanish Flat, Steele Canyon and Putah Canyon recreation areas. Steele Canyon and Putah Canyon have camping, day use and boat launching. Spanish Flat has camping and day use.

The Bureau of Reclamation recently installed new picnic tables, fire rings and barbecues at the three resorts, Laird said. It installed vault toilets. It brought in docks to Steel Canyon and Putah Canyon that Laird said are more stable and safer than what had been there previously. Next on the list is trying to bring water to the stripped-down resorts. Laird said work will begin on a Steele Canyon water hookup in June.

“It’s still a major issue,” Craig Morton, president of the Lake Berryessa Chamber of Commerce, told him. “Most people want water.”

Morton runs a pest control business and lives at the lake. He pointed out the two resorts at full strength – Markley Cove and Pleasure Cove – are on the east side of the lake. The west side has the stripped-down resorts without the marinas, shops and other offerings that they had before the renovation effort began.

Linda Frazier of Markley Cove Marina told the group that her resort has rented out all of its marina slips and has a waiting list with 150 people on it. “Does that give you an idea what we’re talking about, needing more slips along the lake?” Morton told the bureau officials.

After the meeting, Morton called the barbecue pits, fire rings and tables installed at the stripped-down resorts “trinkets.” He compared installing these items to giving a child candy instead of dinner. “I want dinner,” Morton said.

Laird said the concessionaires have reported that all the resort campsites have been reserved for the upcoming Memorial Day holiday. “I think that’s very good news,” he said.

### The transformation

The bureau’s Central California Area Office Manager Drew Lessard gave an update on the long-term resort renovation efforts. He talked about making site plans for the resorts through the lens of financial studies showing what uses are economically feasible. The results should be ready by June, he said.

The bureau this fall will launch the environmental studies for the renovations. It plans to design 95 percent of the infrastructure – roads, water and similar resort needs – so the new concessionaires can start construction when contracts get awarded, he said.

For Morton, the day the renovated resorts open can’t come soon enough. “We’re bleeding up here, the amount of people coming and using the lake,” he said. The Bureau of Reclamation estimates that Lake Berryessa in its heyday, with all seven resorts open and operating at full strength, attracted 1.5 million visitors annually. That estimate has fallen in recent years to about a third of that number.

Not everyone is confident that the Bureau of Reclamation is the best agency to oversee a Lake Berryessa recreation renaissance. Rep. Mike Thompson, D-St. Helena, in March introduced legislation to transfer responsibility for Lake Berryessa’s recreational lands from the Bureau of Reclamation to Bureau of Land Management. He recently announced that 165 members of Congress have signed on as co-authors.

“Lake Berryessa is an important part of our county and we’ve waited too long for the Bureau of Reclamation to effectively execute its redevelopment plan,” Thompson said in a press release. “New management is needed and a redevelopment plan that works for the lake, families and businesses needs to be implemented.”

The proposed legislation states that the Bureau of Reclamation would continue to be in charge of Monticello Dam and the water project facilities. No Solano County water contracts would be changed. Lake Berryessa is in Napa County. The Napa County Board of Supervisors voted April 1 to support Thompson’s legislation. Supervisors said that the Bureau of Reclamation’s expertise is managing water, not managing recreation.

“I think what we have finally determined is working with them is like putting a square peg into a round hole,” Supervisor Diane Dillon said.

Stu Williams of the Lake Berryessa Chamber of Commerce told supervisors that having the Bureau of Reclamation trying to redevelop the resorts is like having a podiatrist trying to do brain surgery.

Lake Berryessa resident Peter Kilkus has long criticized the Bureau of Reclamation's handling of the resort renovations. But he's not certain he wants to see a switch to the Bureau of Land Management just as the Bureau of Reclamation presses ahead with its latest effort. "I'm thinking, let it play out with the Bureau of Reclamation," Kilkus said Wednesday. "And then let it shift over to Land Management. Why jump off now in the middle?"

Lessard said he cannot comment on the proposed management switch for the resorts that is being debated in Congress.

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Change in Lake Berryessa oversight gains support: Supervisors endorse new federal agency for recreation, by Peter Jensen, Apr. 7, 2014, Napa Register

A bill from U.S. Rep. Mike Thompson that would make sweeping changes to recreation at Lake Berryessa has built support in Congress and Napa County. The legislation proposes to take management of recreation at the lake from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (BOR), which has had that responsibility since Napa County relinquished it in the 1970s, and give it to the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Reclamation would continue to operate and maintain Monticello Dam.

Thompson, D-St. Helena, announced last week that his bill has 60 bipartisan coauthors in the House of Representatives, and it has also received the Napa County Board of Supervisors' endorsement. The bill is currently in the House Committee on Natural Resources. Thompson has criticized Reclamation's performance in managing recreation at the lake, which has seen a dwindling number of tourists in recent years because of the limited services offered at the resorts dotting the lake's shoreline.

Of the seven resorts, one has a permanent concessionaire, while four are operating under interim contracts offering camping, day use and boat launching but no running water, Thompson said in a news release. The last two sites remain closed.

"There is serious bipartisan momentum behind changing the management status quo at Lake Berryessa," Thompson said in the release. "My colleagues understand that our federal agencies need to be operating efficiently, and our community has waited too long for BOR to effectively execute its redevelopment plan at Lake Berryessa."

Reclamation has been in the planning process for finding long-term operators for the six resorts for the past year and a half, since it terminated the contract for its former operator, Arizona-based Pensus Group, for failure to perform. The plans expect new operators to be in place by the end of 2015, and starting construction on the redevelopment projects in the spring of 2016, according to Reclamation documents. Agency spokeswoman Margaret Gidding said the agency had no comment on Thompson's legislation, citing a policy not to discuss pending legislation.

The Board of Supervisors voted unanimously last week to support the bill, with Supervisor Diane Dillon saying the Bureau of Land Management is better equipped to manage recreation than Reclamation, whose main mission is to manage dams and reservoirs in the western U.S. "This has been a long time coming and is not without a lot of necessary consideration," Dillon said at the meeting. "Working with (BOR) is like trying to put a square peg in a round hole. The BLM is a better choice for recreation management."

Lake Berryessa resident Bob Lee encouraged the supervisors to wait in voting on the endorsement, and said it's uncertain if shifting management to the BLM would start the planning process over and delay the redevelopment

even further. Reclamation staff have been working for years to implement a visitor services plan, which would provide recreational opportunities similar to what the lake had historically. If BLM wanted to drastically alter that plan, Lee urged the supervisors to be cautious. He said Reclamation should be given another opportunity to correct its past mistakes.

“It could be a different picture than what we’re envisioning,” Lee said. “If it’s going to take longer than BOR’s plan we have to be very cautious. I don’t see a need to vote for this today.”

Lake Berryessa resident Stu Williams responded by saying that he’s been in discussions with BLM staff, who assured him they weren’t planning any drastic changes to what’s currently envisioned for the lake’s recreation. He said it’s time to move on from Reclamation. “It’s a great concern to all of us up there that we see something happen,” Williams said. “In 14 years they’ve done nothing but go backwards.”

BLM spokesman Jeff Fontana said his agency hasn’t taken a position on Thompson’s bill, and is only giving information at this point. “Our role is to provide information to the congressman upon request,” Fontana said. “Any position would come down the road.”

Supervisor Mark Luce said he also saw a need for change at the lake. “It does feel like we’ve been riding a mule in the Kentucky Derby,” Luce said. “It might be time to change horses.”

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Busy Memorial weekend anticipated at Lake Berryessa: Water levels higher than at many other lakes, by Kerana Todorov, May 22, 2014, Napa Register

Boaters are expected to enjoy the water as they head out on Lake Berryessa this Memorial Day weekend. The federal Bureau of Reclamation sought bids from contractors to run five resorts on Lake Berryessa, the older versions of which were demolished by the bureau years ago. Three are operating in a stripped-down configuration and two others are closed completely. Supporters hope rebuilt resorts will jump-start the economy of the remote corner of the county.

The federal Bureau of Reclamation expects to announce in January the winning bidders to run up to five resorts on Lake Berryessa. Napa County is considering whether it would like to again manage one or more of the resort sites at Lake Berryessa. In the early years of Lake Berryessa, the county managed all seven, making itself the target of criticism.

The drought is wreaking havoc with recreation at many of California’s largest lakes, reducing some to puddles. That may bode well for Napa County’s Lake Berryessa this Memorial Day weekend. California’s ongoing drought may encourage more people to visit Lake Berryessa, where the lake level remains high enough to encourage recreation, officials said.

“Memorial Day will be a very busy weekend,” said Warren Kasper, supervisory park ranger for the Bureau of Reclamation, the agency that manages the lake. All of the lake’s camping spots are already full, officials said Thursday. Plenty of visitors are expected at Oak Shores Day Use Area. Boats may launch from various spots, including Capell Cove Boat Launch, a free public facility. Other boat launch areas are at Markley Cove Resort and Pleasure Cove Marina as well as Steele Canyon and Putah Canyon recreation areas.

While the lake is not as popular as it was before the federal Bureau of Reclamation ordered more than 1,000 trailers removed from the shoreline more than seven years ago, resort representatives are optimistic going into this summer. Five out of seven resorts are fully or partially operational. Pleasure Cove Marina’s general manager, Terry Sparkman, who also oversees operations at Spanish Flat and Steele Canyon recreation areas, anticipates a busy Memorial Day weekend, noting that Folsom Lake is “dried out.” All three campgrounds are fully booked, he said. Pleasure Cove’s cabins are rented as are six houseboats. Most of the fishing boats, canoes, kayaks and ski



boats are also booked. Pleasure Cove offers visitors other amenities, including fuel services for boats and a store for ice, food and other goods.

As many as 200 boats a day may launch from Markley Cove Resort, said Chad Frazier, the resort's manager. The resort offers a range of amenities, including a fully-stocked store, fuel for boats and cabins. Another business based at the resort rents out boats. The resort's core business has not changed over the years, even after the trailers were pulled out, Frazier said. "We're sticking with the classics. We're glad we're still here."

Marcia Ritz, owner of the Spanish Flat Country Store and Deli, is also optimistic, given that Lake Berryessa has more water than other lakes and that all available campgrounds along the lake are full. "We certainly hope we're going to be busy," said Ritz, who opened the deli at the Spanish Flat Village Center in 2007, when Spanish Flat Resort was fully operational. "This weekend starts our season."

An historic exhibit on Berryessa Valley re-opens at 11 a.m. Sunday at a bigger spot at Spanish Flat Village Center. The event coincides with the annual reunion of former residents of Monticello, the town that was flooded in the 1950s to make way for the lake. A picnic is planned at the Monticello cemetery on Spanish Flat Loop Road, followed by a celebration at 2 p.m. at the exhibit. About 50 people may attend the reunion. "It keeps the story alive," said Carol Fitzpatrick, of Capell Valley, a descendant of Berryessa Valley residents and exhibit coordinator.

A boom has been placed near the Pope Creek Bridge to prevent boats from congregating on Putah Creek near the bridge and partying this weekend. In addition, extra sheriff's deputies will patrol both the lake and the shoreline, according to Napa County Sheriff's Sgt. Chris Carlisle.

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[Berryessa ranked most family-friendly lake in U.S., by Guy Carl, June 19, 2014](#)

Our own Lake Berryessa has recently been voted No. 1 in the nation on Take Me Fishing's first-ever Top 100 Family Friendly List of Places to Boat and Fish. Pleasure Cove Resort and Marina was specifically identified for the top honor. The Recreational Boating & Fishing Foundation, through its "Take Me Fishing" campaign, initiated the nationwide vote to provide families and outdoor enthusiasts with a recommended list of the best family-friendly places to experience the joys of boating and fishing.

"We enlisted the help of state fish and wildlife agencies to identify popular locations, and asked fishing and boating enthusiasts who belong to our communities to vote on their favorite spots that are easily accessible, and where the fish are known to bite most often," said RBFF President and CEO Frank Peterson. The primary criteria for the top places to boat and fish included proximity to a major city (within an hour's drive) and good fishing opportunities. Public access and amenities were also part of the criteria.

Berryessa's top ranking is doubly impressive given the management woes surrounding the lake's other facilities in recent years. Perhaps this is why Pleasure Cove stood out, since its contract did not expire along with the others and its operations have been unaffected during the upheaval. The RBFF ranking follows up Berryessa's recent recognition by Bassmaster.com as the No. 22 bass fishing lake in the country. Both serve as testaments to Lake Berryessa's stature as a prime destination for anglers and boaters.

Several other Northern California lakes also scored among RBFF's top 100. Lake Chabot near Castro Valley came in at No. 7, Livermore's Lake Del Valle ranked No. 11, and Clear Lake State Park at Kelseyville took the 17th spot. The RBFF is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to increase participation in recreational angling and boating, thereby protecting and restoring the nation's aquatic natural resources. The foundation developed the award-winning Take Me Fishing campaign to create awareness around boating, fishing and conservation, and educate people about the benefits of participation. Take Me Fishing helps boaters and anglers of all ages and experience levels to learn, plan and equip for a day on the water.

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New report envisions future of Lake Berryessa recreation, by Peter Jensen, June 30, 2014, Napa Register

If everything goes to plan, Lake Berryessa could see its tourism visitation fully rebound within five to 10 years, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation says in a new report. The federal agency in charge of recreation on the reservoir's shores, which is mostly concentrated in seven recreation areas, plus day-use and boat launching sites, recently released a market assessment of the 30-year future of the lake's visitation.

The assessment has drawn plaudits from some members of the Lake Berryessa Chamber of Commerce, a trade organization representing business owners at the lake desperate to see the droves of tourists return in the volumes they did historically.

Chamber President Craig Morton said he supports the plan included in the assessment, which sees a need to double the number of wet boat slips at the lake from the 539 there presently, to 1,100 by 2043. Dry boat storage slips would increase fivefold from 65 presently to 325 in the next 30 years, while houseboats would increase from 64 currently to 140 in the future, according to the assessment.

The number of marinas would jump from two presently to five, and the number of public boat ramps would increase from five to seven. Camp sites would increase from 363 at the present to 726 by 2043, while picnic day-use sites would jump from 250 to 350. Some of these facilities and services will be required, while others will be optional to future concession contractors at the lake.

A market feasibility study gauged the ability of the lake to support a hotel, which it had historically offered, but determined such a facility wouldn't make financial sense because of the seasonal nature of tourism to the lake — the peak volumes arrive between Memorial Day weekend and Labor Day weekend. But the market assessment did see the potential for pre-manufactured lodging facilities, and the plans call for 50 such building to be constructed over 30 years.

Boating and camping aren't the only emphasis, though, as the plan also sees potential for nature-based recreation such as hiking, and a shoreline trail will connect to the five recreation areas. The true test of these plans, however, will be whether concessionaires agree that the plans are financially viable enough to sign long-term contracts to provide these services, and justify the high initial costs of building and installing these features.

The Bureau of Reclamation's plans expect to have long-term concessionaires inked to new deals by the spring of 2016, allowing them to move forward with construction. The lake has five recreation areas open presently, including one on a long-term contract, but three are open with limited services such as camping, day-use or boat launching. Two other recreation areas are closed.

Tourism has dropped to about 500,000 visitors annually, from peaks of more than 2 million. Despite this, Reclamation continues to see the potential for a tourist bonanza at the lake, which was created with the completion of Monticello Dam in the late 1950s.

The lake's first public visitation plan viewed it as a Shangri-La for recreation in the Bay Area and in Northern and Central California, close enough to the major metropolitan areas of Sacramento and San Francisco to make it an easy drive for thousands of tourists while just far away enough to represent a sense of escape.

It imagined the lake becoming a destination for blue-collar, weekend family getaways, but the original plans were warped somewhat when Reclamation handed management of recreation over to Napa County, who in turn ceded it to the resort operators.

That allowed more than 1,000 trailers and campers to proliferate along the lake's shorelines, providing a stable source of revenue to the concessionaires, who could then invest it into better facilities and services at the lake. It also developed a reputation for rowdiness and college-aged revelers.

Reclamation attempted a major overhaul of the lake's recreation and image in the early 2000s, when it announced it was removing the trailers and pursuing new concessionaire contracts. The trailers were removed, but Reclamation's new contractor, Pensus, failed to invest the money needed to redevelop the lake's recreation areas. Pensus was ultimately terminated for nonperformance two years ago.

The tantalizing recreational potential of the lake reads clearly in Reclamation's market assessment, as it has in previous public use plans. Berryessa has the ability to draw tourists from 25 counties in the Bay Area, as well as Northern and Central California, although historically it's drawn 75 percent of its tourists from the Bay Area, and 20 percent from the Sacramento area, according to the report.

The plan also views the potential for Napa Valley tourists to come out and stay or visit the lake, a historically challenging notion given the disparity between the high-end restaurants, resorts, spas and wineries that draw tourists to Napa Valley, and the rustic qualities of Lake Berryessa.

Morton said the lake has been popular this summer because of the severe drought plaguing California, which has caused other reservoirs to be drawn down too low for boat launching. Berryessa water, used almost exclusively for Solano County cities and irrigators, has also dropped in depth but not to the point of making the boat launches unusable.

He said the 4th of July holiday weekend next week will make the campgrounds completely full at the lake, but two recreation areas will remain empty because they're closed. "We're full for what is available," Morton said. "We're going to be turning down hundreds of people." Morton said he views Reclamation's plan for restoring tourism to the lake as a possibility, but much remains to be seen.

"If they get all these things going it's not impossible," Morton said. "People just want to get away and spend a weekend."

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#### Sheriff's boats stay busy patrolling Lake Berryessa, by Kerana Todorov, July 12, 2014, Napa Register

Napa County Sheriff's deputies Mark Warrington and Matt Macomber were about to moor their patrol boat at Lake Berryessa last week when they heard a report of a boat sinking with people on board near a resort. In no time, the deputies were zipping through the waters toward Pleasure Cove Resort. About 15 minutes later, however, the members of the stranded party reported their real location, another 10 minutes in the opposite direction. The deputies made a U-turn as the sun settled on the lake.

"When they're not familiar with their surroundings, it makes it quite difficult," said Macomber as he the boat skipped toward a beach where the boating party was waiting with another responding deputy. The visitors' motor boat, as it turned out, had not sunk but had taken in water after rescuing a group of friends stranded in another disabled vessel. Macomber approached the beach. Half-a-dozen children and adults climbed on board before Macomber headed back toward Pleasure Cove where the party had launched hours earlier.

One woman was particularly grateful to the deputies. She had been stranded twice that day. "I'm not an outdoorsy person. So this is like hell," she said, as she sat in the deputies' boat shivering. Even as fire raged in nearby Yolo County hills during Independence Day weekend, hundreds of boaters, Jet skiers and water skiers plied the bluish waters of Lake Berryessa. Deputies patrolled the lake, as they do year round, checking boaters' registration tag, making sure the required safety gear was on board, including life jackets for everyone on board. At least two boaters were arrested for boating under the influence.

A drowning was reported on Independence Day, the second in three days. So far this year, three people have drowned at the lake, according to the Napa County Sheriff's Office. "We're busy," said Sgt. Chris Carlisle, who oversees the unit, based near the Bureau of Reclamation's visitor center on Knoxville Road.

The calls were varied. Sheriff's Deputy Bryan Sardoch, who, unlike Macomber and Warrington, is assigned to the lake full time, shooed away kids from slippery rocks near the Morning Glory Spillway, also known as the Glory Hole. He also issued a number of tickets and arrested at least one for boating under the influence of alcohol.

"You get to see a lot of stuff that you don't see by land," said Sardoch, as he patrolled the lake at sunset, a time known as the "witching hour," in part because people are tired, cranky and may have had one too many beers. Sardoch enjoys the assignment at the lake, noting the deputies there form a tightly-knit group. "We help each other's out as much as we can," she said.

Marcia Ritz, owner of the Spanish Flat Country Store and Deli also praise the Sheriff's deputies assigned to the lake. Ritz sees boaters who come to her store after receiving fix-it tickets because they lacked the required safety gear on board, often to buy life jackets and fire extinguishers. The deputies, she said, make their presence known. They become part of the community, she said.

"They take care of all the people who are out here. They do so much for us," said Ritz, who has owned the store since 2007. "They take care of the lake."

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Don, the guy and his dam by Richard Rico, TheReporter.Com

SO THERE we were, 230 feet beneath the surface of Lake Berryessa. No submarine, no SCUBA. No need. We were inside the belly of Monticello Dam, 320,000 cubic yards of concrete known affectionately by Don Burbey as the "big, giant plug." He's earned that right. Burbey is the dam guy for Solano Irrigation District. For the past 32 years he's known the Putah plug up close and personal. I've known it since it was built in 1957 as a Herculean hand holding back the Creek, inundating bucolic Monticello and helping grass, flowers and Solano progress to grow. For perspective, 320,000 cubic yards of concrete could make a sidewalk, 3-ft. wide, 4-inches thick, and run 1,667 miles to Omaha. Fellow voyeur Mike Segura did the math.

Tuesday, I finally asked Burbey to get me in. The door is at the base, which is 100 feet thick. It tapers to 12 feet at the top. Care to guess how cold it was inside?

In about 1981, Don hired on as apprentice dam tender. Through the years he became the dam tender, then grew to be-come superintendent of ops and maintenance. After all that, Burbey is retiring April 2 from "a fantastic job; I could not have asked for anything I liked better."

BEFORE Putah Creek slams into that wall, we drove through the first of several security gates. Since 9/11, everything has tightened up. Burbey once gave up to 30 tours a year, but they've mostly been cut. Imagine the worst: If the dam were to rupture, the lake would end up in the Yolo Causeway. Next to the steel door is SID's power plant, which went online in 1983. Its three generators can send 11.5 megawatts to the PG&E grid in Rohnert Park. just as releases can send water for people, animals and plants through 32 miles of Putah South Canal. It's a wet miracle.

Inside, a dam-wide corridor stretches north and south, housing monitors for stress and movement. One is primitive, and ingenious. A taut wire stretches from the dam top to the bottom where a plumb bob weight hangs over a reference point. If it moves, so has the dam. They also do celestial mapping -- dam checking by stars.

Outside, Burbey said, "Lean back on the face, and look up." The thin curve of the rim swirled around us, like a photo of Earth from a satellite. A privileged view. Beyond the crest length of 1,023 feet is the Glory Hole. When it spills, it's at 48,400 cubic yards a second. We make bets on when it'll spill again. Burbey sees a spill as "The best way to clean out the creek."

In 1997, a UC Davis student in the lake died when she was sucked into the hole. Burbey said he was first to recover her. The G. Hole's integrity is checked periodically by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. They do it by lowering a person by rope into the hole. He rappels its 275-ft. depth, looking for cracks. Some kind of moxie.

WITH A 302-foot-high dam behind you, holding back a max 1,602,000 acre feet of water, you imagine what the movers and shakers were thinking in the 1950s when they urged a "plug" across Devil's Gate to the Bureau of Reclamation. Lots of locals -- politicians and civilians -- got in the act. Agman Ed Uhl made more than 17 trips to D.C. to argue our case. Timing was everything. Imagine again trying to build the dam today. Impossible. Construction began in 1953. It was built and managed by the U.S. Bureau until 1981, when SID and Solano County Water Agency took over.

WHISKEY is for drinking, and water is for fighting over. So far, it's been peaceful. Solano cities, ag, industries are nurtured by Berryessa water, and by its dam.

Into that historic pageant came Don Burbey, a lifelong Vacan and a Vaca High grad of 1974. He was born in 1956, about a year before Monticello Dam was finished.

He goes so far back that his late mother, Sue Hurley, and he had the same K-1 teacher, "Mrs. Burton," at Ulatis. Burbey has a son, Adam, who works for SID -- no surprise -- in water metering. His daughter, Breanne, is a teacher at Browns Valley School. It's with his granddaughter, Grace, that Don Burbey now hopes to spend time that for 32 years was focused on his dam.

AFTER years of monitoring, unclogging debris from Lake Solano screens, answering calls of power outages, and the tribulations of keeping water flowing, I'd say "his dam" is right on. The steward of a life element is moving on. A solid wall of concrete is not a living thing. But in its belly Tuesday, I swear I felt it breathe.

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RECEIVED AUG 20 2014



EDMUND G. BROWN JR.  
GOVERNOR

MATTHEW RODRIGUEZ  
SECRETARY FOR  
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

**Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board**

15 August 2014

Phillip Miller, District Engineer  
Napa Berryessa Resort Improvement District  
1195 Third Street, Room 201  
Napa, CA 94559-3092

**TRANSMITTAL OF ORDER R5-2014-0113 RESCINDING CEASE AND DESIST ORDER AND CONNECTION RESTRICTION R5-2010-0101, NAPA BERRYESSA RESORT IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT, NAPA COUNTY**

Enclosed is an official copy of Order No. R5-2014-0113, which was adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region, at its 7/8 August 2014 meeting. Order R5-2014-0113 rescinds Cease and Desist Order (CDO) and Connection Restriction R5-2010-0101.

In order to conserve resources, this letter transmits a paper copy of the Rescission Order to Napa Berryessa Resort Improvement District. Other interested persons may download the documents from the Central Valley Water Board's website at:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/adopted\\_orders](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/adopted_orders).

Copies of the document can also be obtained by contacting or visiting the Central Valley Water Board's office on weekdays between 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM.

If you have any questions regarding this rescission, please contact Guy Childs at (916) 464-4648 or at [gchilds@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:gchilds@waterboards.ca.gov).

HOWARD HOLD, P.G.  
Senior Engineering Geologist  
WDR Compliance and Enforcement Unit

Enclosure: Order R5-2014-0113

cc w/o enc: Bill Dodd, Napa County District 4 Supervisor, Napa  
Steve Lederer, Napa County Department of Environmental Management, Napa  
Hillary Gitleman, Napa County Conservation, Development and Planning Department,  
Napa  
Helene Franchi, County Executive Office, Napa  
Roberta Larson, Somach Simmons, Sacramento

gjc: 15 Aug-14

KARL E. LONGLEY ScD, P.E., CHAIR | PAMELA C. CREEDON P.E., BCCE, EXECUTIVE OFFICER  
11020 Sun Center Drive #200, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670 | [www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley)



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Lake Berryessa Chamber of Commerce No Confidence in Reclamation Letter

To: Sally Jewell, Secretary of the Dept. of the Interior

The Board of Directors of Lake Berryessa Chamber of Commerce wishes to express our lack of confidence in the Bureau of Reclamation's ability to manage concessions and recreation at Lake Berryessa.

Fourteen years ago, in anticipation of the expiration of all seven concession contracts, the Bureau of Reclamation began a process to determine the future concessions and recreational use of the Lake Berryessa Recreation Area. When the process dragged on, Reclamation explicitly assured the community there would be a "seamless transition" from expiring concession contracts to new concession operators. That commitment was not met. Eight years after the 2006 Record of Decision for new concessions and recreation use of the Lake Berryessa Recreation Area was issued, and five years after the last concession contract expired, six of the seven concession locations have no permanent operator.

Reclamation has carried out two Requests for Proposals. The first was declared flawed and the selection of two of the three concessionaires chosen was withdrawn. A second RFP process was initiated and this time six of the seven concession areas were awarded to one concessionaire. Two years later in 2012, with little to no progress on redevelopment visible, the concessionaire was terminated.

Four of the concessions are now operated under interim contracts, providing only boat launching and camping without hook-ups, showers or running water. Two former concession locations are simply closed. Tourism has plummeted. The local economy, which was developed to serve visitors to the lake, has been devastated. The few businesses left are struggling to survive.

The lack of concessionaires has severely hampered local water districts, with the financial consequences of losing their largest water customers being visited upon the residential users, their water and sewer rates have doubled. We have lost jobs, population, and schools.

Reclamation has spent the past year deciding on a new process for what will be their third attempt to find concessionaires. The plan is to have new concessions fully operational potentially in another three years.

Reclamation is a water agency. Its bureaucracy, policies, and lengthy processes are designed to provide a clean and plentiful water supply. It is not, as Reclamation itself has repeatedly told us, a recreation agency.

It does not have the experience, expertise, or policies to successfully select and manage concessionaires or to determine the recreational needs of the public. Nor does the Bureau of Reclamation have the budget priorities or the requisite mission that would allow it to meet those needs.

We have no confidence in the Bureau of Reclamation's ability to successfully administer the Lake Berryessa Recreation Area. There are agencies within the Department of the Interior, such as the Bureau of Land Management and the National Park Service that would be better suited to administer the recreational use of this lake. We are asking you to transfer responsibility for managing the recreational use of this lake to an agency that can complete the transition on behalf of the residents of Lake Berryessa and all of the publics' recreational communities.

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"Berryessa's Bounty"

This photo, taken March 22, 2014 shows the quality of rainbow trout and landlocked king salmon currently being caught by anglers at Lake Berryessa! This picture is courtesy of Guide BILL DUNN, [www.billdunnsfishingcharters.com](http://www.billdunnsfishingcharters.com).

Lake Berryessa has become one of the finest fisheries in the State through the efforts of California Inland Fisheries Foundation, Inc., a 501-C3 non-profit, in a cooperative effort with California Dept. of Fish & Wildlife. In 1999, CIFFI began a rainbow trout fish-enhancing program at Berryessa by financing a four-pen rearing facility at the end of the Markley Cove Resort docks. Trout are placed into the pens early in the year, are fed, then released into the lake in early spring, when they have grown sufficiently to survive on their own. CDFW also plants substantial amounts of landlocked king salmon, but the major draw is the planted kokanee salmon that brings so many anglers to the lake. The popular bass fishery has also benefitted from these plants. Simply put, efforts over the past decade have made Lake Berryessa a go-to destination for anglers!

This year, on June 7, 2014, the town of Winters, Gateway to Lake Berryessa, and CIFFI will celebrate “Salute to Summer – Park Party”. CIFFI hosts a fishing derby the morning of June 7 at Lake Berryessa and the Winters Rotary Club and Winters Chamber of Commerce plus local merchants, are implementing plans to make the “Salute” an annual family event, held in the center of town at Rotary Park. It will be complete with CIFFI derby fish weigh-in, presentations and awards, boats and guides, food vendors, music, activities, a free kids raffle plus a Giant Raffle and more! Make plans now to attend! For more info on the family-fun CIFFI Berryessa Derby, check [www.ciffi.org](http://www.ciffi.org) or call 209.810.9603.





# **Neighbors Helping Neighbors Butts Canyon Fire Victims Assistance**



## **Afternoon Golf Tournament and Bocce Ball Followed By Community Fundraising Dinner**

- Saturday July 26th, 2014/Golf and Bocce Ball start at 3:00PM+ Dinner at 6:00PM to 7PM
- 9 Hole Scramble Format (limited to first 40 golfers)/Bocce Ball (limited to first 18 people)
- Golf and Dinner \$50 • Bocce Ball and Dinner \$40 • Barbeque Dinner Only \$20+ Great Raffle Prizes

## **Please RSVP By Wednesday, July 23rd**

- To register contact Joel Larson at (707) 965-2115 or [joel@aetnasprings.com](mailto:joel@aetnasprings.com)
- Check or cash only/Please address all checks to Cindy Stapp (Additional donations can be sent to Cindy Stapp, "In care of" Pope Valley School, P.O. Box 167 Pope Valley, Ca 94567)

All proceeds will be donated to Abbey and Cindy Stapp who recently lost their home to the Butts Canyon Fire. Both Abbey and Cindy are thirty-year residents of Pope Valley. Abbey and his son are former employees of Aetna Springs Golf Course and Cindy has worked at Pope Valley Elementary for twenty-five years as the Bus Driver/Instructional Aide/Librarian.



**Aetna Springs Golf Course • 1600 Aetna Springs Rd • Pope Valley, Ca 94567**

1170 N Lincoln, Suite 110

Dixon, CA 95620

(707) 678-1655 x 3

FAX (707) 678-5001

[www.solanorcd.org](http://www.solanorcd.org)



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**CONTACT: Marianne K. Butler**  
**Education Program Manager**  
**Solano Resource Conservation District**  
**Cell 707.301.5778**  
**[www.solanorcd.org](http://www.solanorcd.org)**

### **BOATER FOCUS GROUPS AND BILGE PAD BLOWOUT EVENTS MAKE AUGUST A BUSY MONTH FOR BOATERS AT LAKE BERRYESSA AND RIO VISTA**

**Whether participating in a bilge pad exchange or helping make our outreach programs more effective, boaters can make a difference on our waterways and earn great prizes in the process**

**July 30, 2014, Lake Berryessa & Rio Vista:** The summer boating season will end with a bang at Lake Berryessa and Rio Vista, where the end of August will see three weekends of Boater Outreach events at both locations.

**Bilge Pad Blow Out-** The end of August is a great time for people with in-board motor boats to change out their oily bilge pad for a new one. Bilge Pad Blow Out stations will be operating each weekend August 15 through Labor Day to help people do just that. At Lake Berryessa, the stations will be located at Markley Cove, Steele Canyon and Capell Cove. At Rio Vista, the station will be set up at Sandy Beach Park.

At all of the stations, Boater Outreach interns will help boaters change out their oily bilge pad, install a clean, new one and reward bilge pad users with prizes and boat service discount coupons. It's not hard to change a bilge pad, but it can be a challenge to properly dispose of one. After a season of boating, bilge pads – small oil-absorbent pillows placed in the bilge of an inboard motor – are filled with engine oil and fluids. They can't go in the trash, but instead need to be recycled.

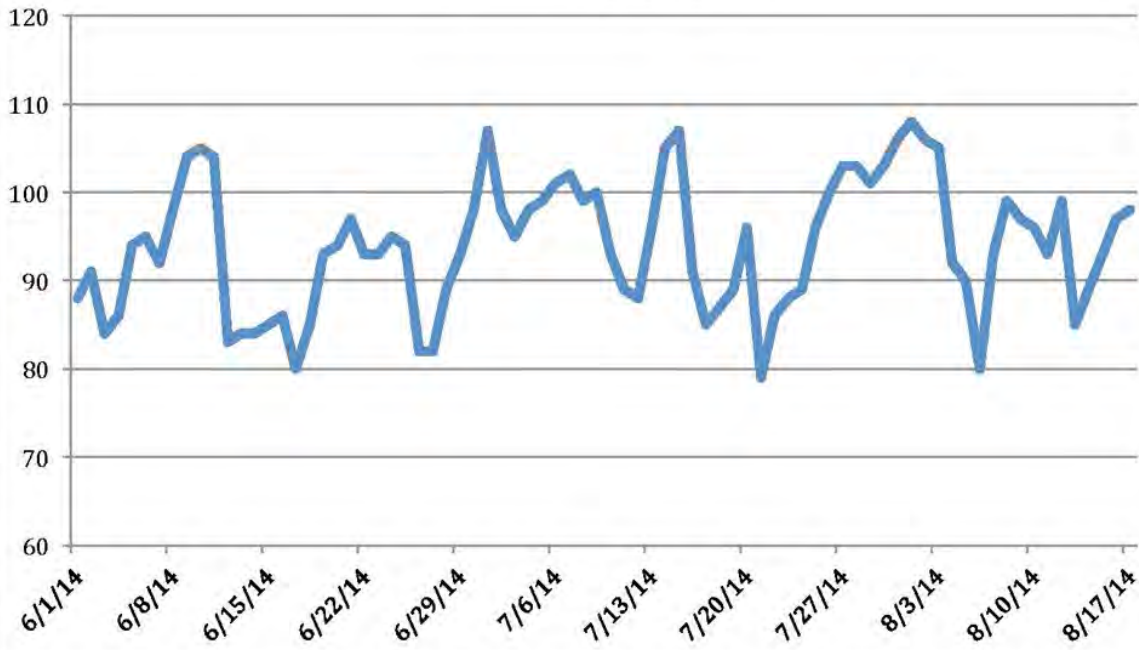
Special red bilge pad recycling canisters at Lake Berryessa concessions and Sandy Beach Park in Rio Vista allow boaters to recycle their full bilge pads. Once off the water, it can be a little bit trickier, and the Blow Out events aim to make bilge pad use and proper disposal easy and fun for every boater.

**Boater Focus Groups** – Helping boaters keep engine fluids out of our waterways is a major focus the Boater Education Program. To make sure we're doing the best job possible in our outreach efforts, we'll be conducting Focus Groups to let boaters tell us what they think about our messaging, our methods and our program.

There will be a Focus Group Session at Lake Berryessa on Saturday August, 23 and one in Rio Vista on Sunday August 24. Participants will receive tote bags of goodies, free launch passes and snacks. To participate in either group, boaters should contact Mike Gordon at [Michael.gordon@solanorcd.org](mailto:Michael.gordon@solanorcd.org) or 707-678-1655 x 122.

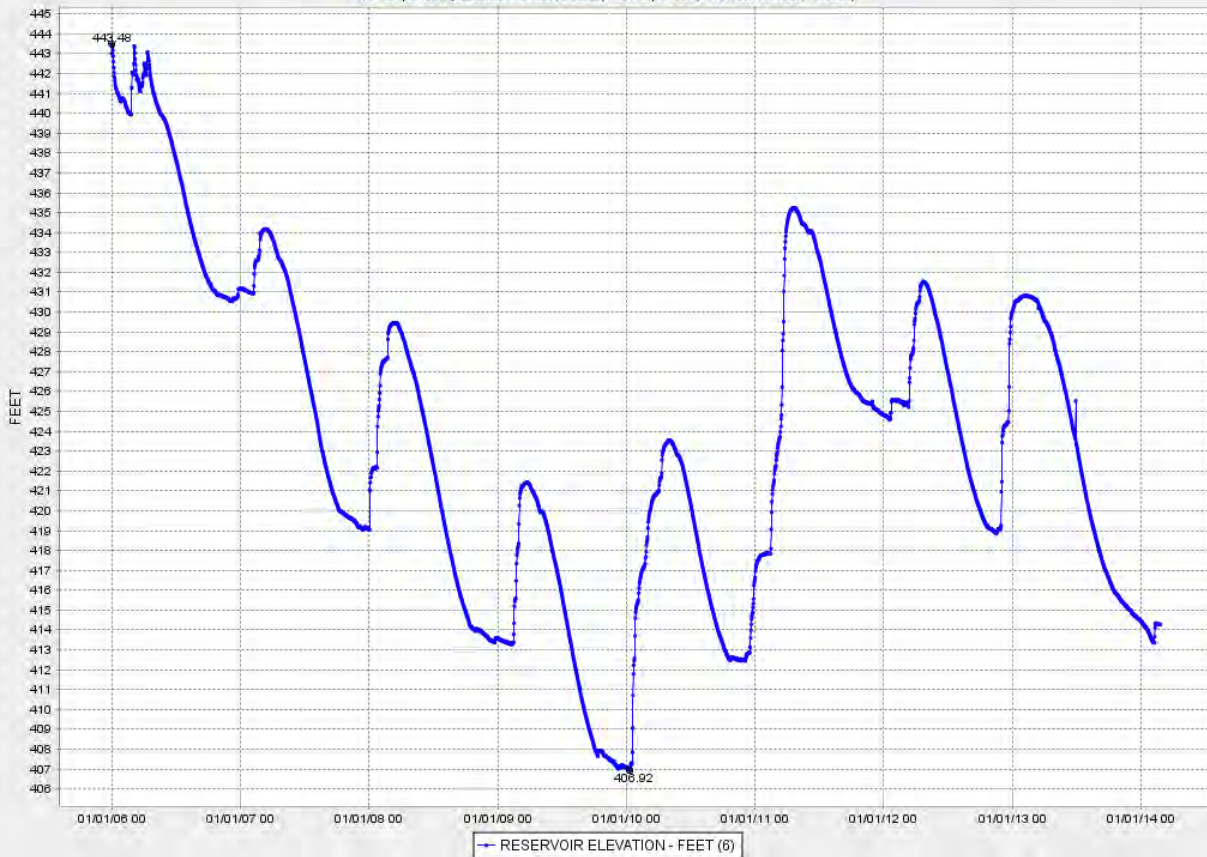
For more information about these events or our programs at Lake Berryessa and Rio Vista, contact Marianne Butler at [Marianne.butler@solanorcd.org](mailto:Marianne.butler@solanorcd.org) or 707-301-5778.

## Lake Berreyssa High Temperature Summer 2014



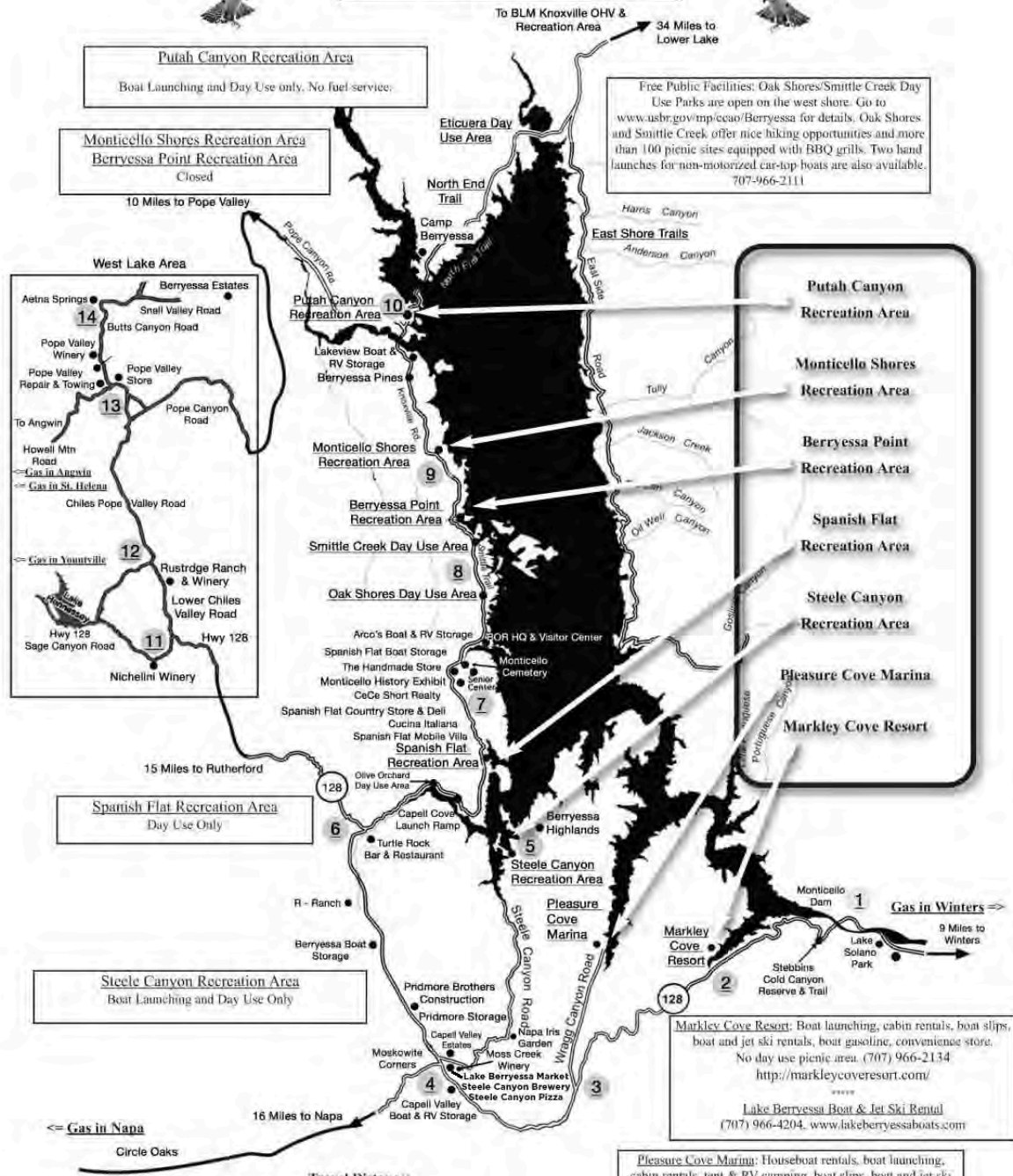
### BERRYESSA (BER)

Date from 01/01/2006 00:00 through 02/29/2014 08:01 Duration : 2980 days  
 Max of period : (01/02/2006 00:00, 443.48) Min of period : (01/11/2010 00:00, 406.92)



# The Lake Berryessa News

## Lake Berryessa - The Map



**Putah Canyon Recreation Area**  
Boat Launching and Day Use only. No fuel service.

**Monticello Shores Recreation Area**  
**Berryessa Point Recreation Area**  
Closed

Free Public Facilities: Oak Shores/Smittle Creek Day Use Parks are open on the west shore. Go to [www.usbr.gov/mp/cao/Berryessa](http://www.usbr.gov/mp/cao/Berryessa) for details. Oak Shores and Smittle Creek offer nice hiking opportunities and more than 100 picnic sites equipped with BBQ grills. Two hand launches for non-motorized car-top boats are also available. 707-966-2111

**West Lake Area**

Berryessa Estates  
Small Valley Road  
Butts Canyon Road

Aetna Springs 14  
Pope Valley Winery  
Pope Valley Repair & Towing  
Pope Valley Store  
Pope Canyon Road

To Angwin 13  
Howell Mtn Road  
Chiles Pope Valley Road

To Yountville 12  
Rustridge Ranch & Winery  
Lower Chiles Valley Road

Hwy 128  
Sage Canyon Road  
Nichelini Winery

**Spanish Flat Recreation Area**  
Day Use Only

**Steele Canyon Recreation Area**  
Boat Launching and Day Use Only

**Markley Cove Resort:** Boat launching, cabin rentals, boat slips, boat and jet ski rentals, boat gasoline, convenience store. No day use picnic area. (707) 966-2134 <http://markleycoveresort.com/>

**Lake Berryessa Boat & Jet Ski Rental**  
(707) 966-4204. [www.lakeberryessaboats.com](http://www.lakeberryessaboats.com)

**Pleasure Cove Marina:** Houseboat rentals, boat launching, cabin rentals, tent & RV camping, boat slips, boat and jet ski rentals, boat gasoline, convenience store. Day use picnic area, but not near the water. (707) 966-9600. [www.goberryessa.com](http://www.goberryessa.com)

### Travel Distances

1. Monticello Dam	1=>2	3.0 miles
2. Markley Cove Resort	2=>3	5.3 miles
3. Wragg Canyon Road	3=>4	3.0 miles
4. Moskowite Corners	4=>5	5.0 miles
5. Steele Canyon Recreation Area	4=>6	4.7 miles
6. Turtle Rock	6=>7	5.0 miles
7. Spanish Flat Village Center	7=>8	2.4 miles
8. Oak Shores/Smittle Creek/Visitor Center	8=>9	2.4 miles
9. Monticello Shores/Berryessa Point	9=>10	2.8 miles
10. Pope Canyon Road/ Putah Canyon Rec. Area	10=>13	10.2 miles
11. Hwy 128 @ Lower Chiles Valley Road	6=>11	3.0 miles
12. Pope Valley Road	11=>12	3.2 miles
13. Pope Valley	12=>13	8.5 miles
14. Aetna Springs	13=>14	3.7 miles

**Note: No auto gas available between Winters and Napa or at Lake Berryessa!**

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Rev 4/5/13

### Helpful Informational Links

- [www.lakeberryessanews.com/](http://www.lakeberryessanews.com/)
- [www.visitnapavalley.com/](http://www.visitnapavalley.com/)
- [www.usbr.gov/mp/cao/berryessa/](http://www.usbr.gov/mp/cao/berryessa/)
- [http://brbna.org/](http://http://brbna.org/)
- [www.napahiking.com/lake-district-lake-berryessa.htm](http://www.napahiking.com/lake-district-lake-berryessa.htm)
- [www.winterschamber.com/](http://www.winterschamber.com/)
- [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lake\\_Berryessa](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lake_Berryessa)

## Reclamation Announces Hours of Operation for Recreation Facilities at Lake Berryessa

NAPA, Calif. – The Bureau of Reclamation’s Central California Area Office announces the hours of operation for recreation facilities at Lake Berryessa for 2014:

### Reclamation Operations:

#### Dufer Point Visitor Center

May 18 through September 1: Weekends and Holidays 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; Weekdays Noon-2 p.m.; closed Wednesdays

The Lake Berryessa Visitor Center offers displays and exhibits on the history of Lake Berryessa, the Monticello Valley and the construction of the Solano Project. It also houses an exhibit of local wildlife (stuffed and mounted) showing the common and not-so-common animals found around the lake. Park Rangers are available to answer questions about natural resources, recreational opportunities, wildlife and the area’s history. Brochures, maps, trail guides and other educational information are available free of charge. Contact the Park Rangers at 707-966-2111 ext. 113 for information about park events, hikes, kayak tours and educational programs.

#### Oak Shores Day Use Area

April 1 to April 30: Open 7 a.m., Close 7 p.m.

May 1 to September 15: Open 7 a.m., Close 8 p.m.

On April 1, the seasonal closure of the northern portions of Oak Shores Day Use Area will come to an end, and the entire day use area will be available for public use from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Closing hours will move to 8 p.m. on May 1 to correspond to the longer daylight hours.

#### Smittle Creek Day Use Area

April 1 to April 30: Open 7 a.m., Close 7 p.m.

May 1 to September 15: Open 7 a.m., Close 8 p.m.

Smittle Creek Day Use Area will be available for public use from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. starting on April 1. Closing hours will move to 8 p.m. on May 1 to correspond to the longer daylight hours.

Other developed day use areas and dispersed access points at Lake Berryessa are open from dawn to dusk.

### Concession Operations:

Markley Cove Resort, Pleasure Cove Marina, Steele Canyon Recreation Area, Spanish Flat Recreation Area and Putah Canyon Recreation Area continue to be open and offer a variety of recreation services. For information regarding operations and services offered at concession-operated facilities, please call the concession operators or visit their websites:

Markley Cove: 707-966-2134, [www.markleycoveresort.com](http://www.markleycoveresort.com)

Pleasure Cove Marina: 707-966-9600, [www.goberryessa.com](http://www.goberryessa.com)

Steele Canyon Recreation Area: 707-966-9179, [www.goberryessa.com](http://www.goberryessa.com)

Spanish Flat Recreation Area: 707-966-9192, [www.goberryessa.com](http://www.goberryessa.com)

Putah Canyon Recreation Area: 707-966-9051, [www.royalelcparkmanagement.com](http://www.royalelcparkmanagement.com).

For questions, please contact the Lake Berryessa Field Office at 707-966-2111 ext. 0. Please visit the Lake Berryessa website at <http://www.usbr.gov/mp/ccao/berryessa/index.html> for additional information.

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## Lake Berryessa Watershed Partnership: Lake Berryessa Summaries 2014

Steele, and Oak Shores Summary for 5/16 - 5/18: Andrew, Joe, and Anna

On Saturday, Andrew, Joe and Anna went to Cappell in the morning and were trained on the Boaters Survey and Invasive Mussel Survey, both on paper and the Ipad. We learned how to catch the boaters attention and keep them interested in the survey. After Cappell, we went to Oak Shore to educate lake-goers on Bilge Pads. Joe and Anna were the first two to be Bilgee. People were curious to know what Bilgee was. Many were excited to take the survey and take pictures with Bilgee. Andrew, Joe and Anna became much more comfortable using the Ipad to give the surveys and take pictures.

On Sunday, the floaters were stationed at Steele giving Boater Surveys. We learned how to catch the boater's attention and read their body language. We were able to hand out 14 boater kits before we ran out. Many of the boaters installed the Bilge pad on the spot. This weekend was a good training weekend and it prepared us for the busy weekend ahead.

Markley Weekly Summary for 5/16 - 5/18: Chris and Abby

This weekend Chris and Abby finished up their training on how to interact with the public on invasive species and water quality on Friday and half of Saturday. With the remainder of Saturday and all of Sunday, they were able to hone in their skills of interacting and engaging boaters. Within the day and a half, they talked with 85 different groups of boaters on the invasive mussels. They also managed to do 39 Clean Water Questionnaire's that informed boaters on bilge pads. Out of those 39, they were able to install about 15 bilge pads on the spot and removed 5 old, used bilge pads. Overall, it was a great weekend for the two of them. They learned a lot of vital information to make them successful educators and protectors of beautiful Lake Berryessa.

Capell for 5/16 - 5/18: Arturo and Gabby

On Saturday, the Lake Berryessa Outreach interns received on the site training on invasive mussel surveys and boater survey from two previous interns. They pointed out how to get through the main points of the survey without losing the interest of the boaters. At the same time we learned how to give out as much information as possible while conducting the surveys. Once interns split up to other locations, Arturo and Gaby stayed at the Capell location of Lake Berryessa continuing doing invasive muscle and boater surveys. Left alone for the first time, we were able to develop confidence on speaking to the boaters. At Capel launching ramp, we conducted the Invasive Mussel survey to about ten boaters and conducted four Boater surveys passing out belge kits.

On Saturday, Gaby and Arturo started out taking turns conducting the two types of surveys while giving each other pointers on how to improve surveys skills and build more confidence. By the end of the day we received more than thirty visitors, conducting invasive mussel surveys as they came in. The majority of the visitors where boat owners while the rest had jetskis. We conducted about fourteen boater kit surveys which about five people agreed to installed the new belge on site. It was a great first weekend at Lake berryessa with perfect weather ideal to get started and learn the insights of our summer internship.