

Lake Berryessa News, October, 2023

Lake Berryessa Revitalization Process

Sun Outdoors will end its interim contracts for Steele Canyon Recreation Area, Spanish Flat Recreation Area, and Monticello Shores Recreation Area at Lake Berryessa on October 31, 2023. Napa County has said that it will continue to operate Spanish Flat Recreation Area and Steele Canyon Recreation area after that date. Napa just completed a new bid process for Monticello Shores Recreation Area (See story below.). Napa has also said they are in present negotiations with a company to run Steele Canyon.

Most people are not aware that Napa County has been formally in charge of Steele Canyon Recreation Area, Spanish Flat Recreation Area, and Monticello Shores Recreation Area since November 2020 per the Managing Partner Agreement with the Bureau of Reclamation. Since that time Napa County managed Steele Canyon Recreation Area through an interim agreement with Pleasure Cove (Suntex). Napa County also managed Spanish Flat Recreation Area through an interim agreement with Spanish Flat Partners, a group of local investors.

In 2021 Napa County released bid package for Steele Canyon, Spanish Flat, and Monticello Shores.

Per Napa County, the 2021 bidders were:

Spanish Flat: Sun Outdoors was the only bidder.

Steele Canyon: Sun Outdoors, Margaritaville, and Suntex

Monticello Shores: Sun Outdoors, El campo del Sol

Sun Outdoors was chosen for all three resorts.

The Lake Berryessa News asked the County several questions.

LBN: Who will operate Steele Canyon and Spanish Flat after Sun leaves?

Napa County: The county is considering different options to operate the existing sites while it pursues long-term agreements. No final decisions have been made. Agreements with site operators will be submitted to the Board of Supervisors for consideration.

LBN: When will the new bids for Steele Canyon and Spanish Flat be released?

Napa County: That has not yet been decided, but it will be before they are presented to the Board of Supervisors for consideration.

Lake Berryessa News comment: The county is actually authorized to negotiate with the original losing bidders in the previous bid process won by Sun Outdoors. So it is

conceivable that they may be negotiating with Margaritaville for Steele Canyon. If Margaritaville declines, they could then move down to Suntex without going out for a new bid on Steele Canyon.

LBN: What is the present status of progress on Berryessa Point by Suntex?

Napa County: Suntex is currently investigating the site and conducting environmental studies.

Monticello Shores Bid Winner

Monticello Shores (formerly Rancho Monticello) bids were due by September 29, 2023 at 12:00 PM (Pacific Time). Napa County has confirmed to the Lake Berryessa News that [Collective Retreats](#) was the only bidder for Monticello Shores which is the largest concession area at Lake Berryessa.

<https://www.collectiveretreats.com/>

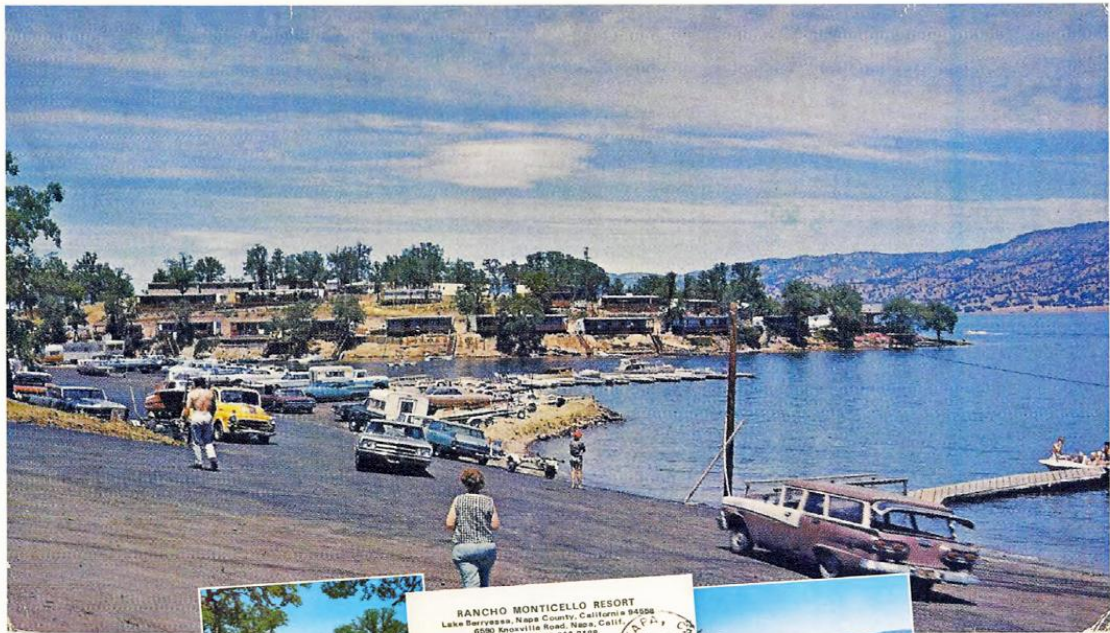
Some nice words from their website:

"The Collective name comes from our core belief that we're inextricably tied to each other and to our world, and that travel is the way we experience, understand, and deepen that connection. Retreat is rooted in the idea that travel leads us to a more grounded and true version of ourselves. When you bring these two ideas together—exploration to foster deeper connection—you have the spirit of Collective Retreats.

Collective Retreats is an ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance) focused experiential travel company redefining traditional hotels through a collection of unique luxury retreats in unexpected places. Each bold, eco-centric concept embraces the local landscape and culture of a destination, allowing guests to connect with the land, community, and with themselves through unique on-site activities, immersive culinary activations, personal hospitality, and culture-forward programming.

Life, above all, is meant to be a powerful experience lived to the utmost, enjoyed and shared with others. We believe that we have the opportunity to create something unique and better that connects us to each other and our surroundings."

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Glory Hole - Will It Overflow in 2024?

Lake Berryessa Statistics: October 2, 2023

Will Glory Hole overflow next year? Light rainfall Sunday totaled .21" bringing season total at Monticello Dam to .24".

The lake level is down now to 422.9' - 17.1 below Glory Hole.

At this level and with dry land, it takes about 3 inches of rain to start any runoff. Then the lake will rise at about .7 inches per inch of rain. So, at 17 feet down it will take about 15 inches [3+(17x.7)] of rain to overflow Glory Hole. Since average annual rainfall is variable but often more than 20 inches (see table below), it is probable/possible that Glory hole will overflow in 2024.

Last year at this time the lake was at 396.0', 44.0' below Glory Hole and we were all worried about the future rainfall.

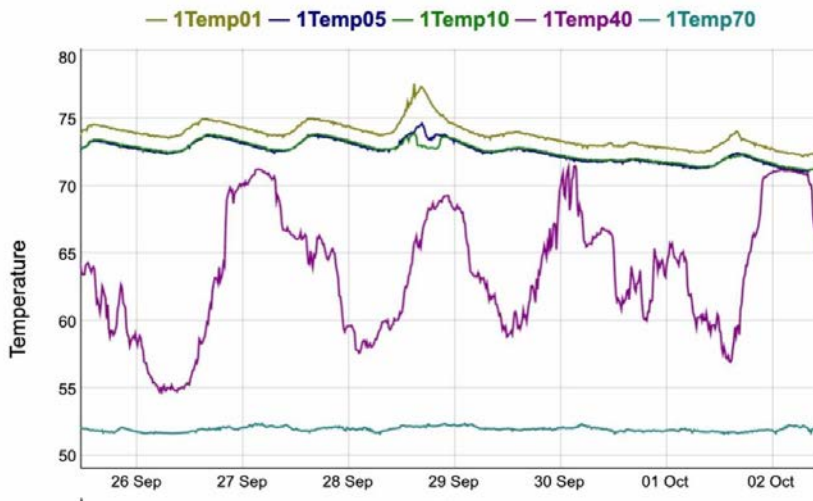
The dam output has dropped to an average of about 250 cfs (496 AF/day).

The Gamble Gauge has dropped to 1,242,327 Acre-Feet or 80.0% capacity.

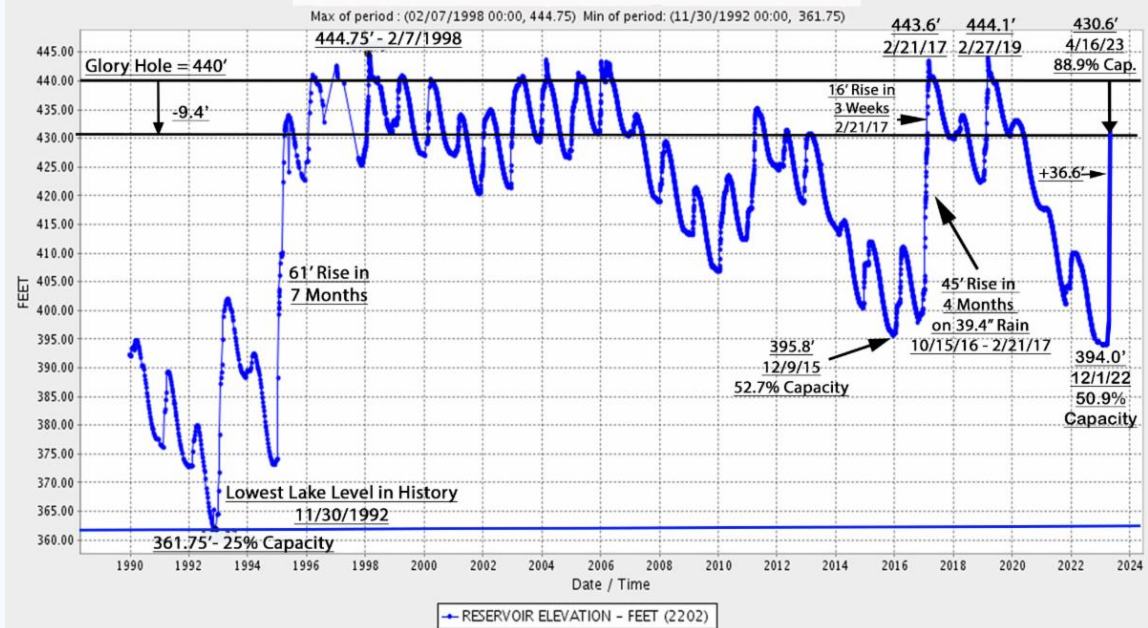
Lake water temperature dropped to about 73 degrees at the surface to 10 feet down, rising and mixing to almost 70 degrees at 40 feet but staying at 52 degrees from 70 feet to the bottom.

Date	Elevation	Evap	High	Low	Precip
9/25/23	423.13	0.18	81	44	0.00
9/26/23	423.11	0.09	78	50	0.00
9/27/23	423.05	0.16	83	44	0.00
9/28/23	423.01	0.15	87	44	0.00
9/29/23	422.95	0.17	85	48	0.00
9/30/23	422.91	0.12	81	52	0.00
10/1/23	422.87	0.04	71	43	0.21

Lake Berryessa - Temperature



	Rain Year (7/1 - 6/31)	First Rain	Total By 1/1 (At Dam)	Season Total (At Dam)
1	97-98		10.77"	46.26"
2	98-99	11/10/98	7.18"	23.46"
3	99-00	10/30/99	6.5"	26"
4	00-01	10/20/00	4.54"	24.7"
5	01-02	10/29/01	15.73"	23.38"
6	02-03	11/7/02	19.34"	31.6"
7	03-04	10/31/03	12.01"	25.64"
8	04-05	10/19/04	15.55"	36.36"
9	05-06	9/26/05	17.4"	40.56"
10	06-07	10/3/06 .22"	5.36"	12.7"
11	07-08	9/19/07 - .1"	4.48"	25.32"
12	08-09	10/3/08 - .2"	6.6"	23.96"
13	09-10	9/14/09 - .24"	6.5"	26.41"
14	10-11	10/18/10 - .21"	12.62"	37.92"
15	11-12	10/4/11 - .2"	3.04"	19.56"
16	12-13	10/22/12 - .73"	17.97"	20.65"
17	13-14	9/22/13 - .43"	1.88"	13.69"
18	14-15	9/19/14 - .11"	13.34"	19.56"
19	15-16	10/2/15 - .68"	6.23"	24.57"
20	16-17	10/4/16 - .04"	8.8"	47.55"
21	17-18	10/20/17 - .21"	3.41"	14.89"
22	18-19	10/2/18 - .51"	7.28"	40.53"
23	19-20	11/27/19 - .73"	7.14"	10.93"
24	20-21	11/15/20-.09"	1.92"	9.21"
25	21-22	9/10/21 - .05"	15.36"	18.73"
26	22-23	9/19/22 - .51"	11.92"	41.9"



The Coastal Clean-up was a success again this year.

Twelve volunteers from the Monticello Ski Club, the Manager and employees of Steele Canyon Recreation Area cleaned the shorelines at Steele and Willi's Cove on September 23, 2023. Additional volunteers, with the use of a pontoon boat, cleaned the shorelines along Spanish Flat Recreation Area. We were told that all of the garbage collected totaled 1,363 pounds. Thank you to everyone who participated.

Lucie Hock, Secretary/Treasurer, Monticello Ski Club





Having enough water in your fire suppression tank is essential during California's ever-longer fire season. But how can you be sure your tank is full?

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Napa County Fire Update

To date, there have been 883 chipping requests completed, which is more than last year at this point. A new innovative tool, Defensible Space Fuel Mapper, is now available to assist residents in prioritizing defensible space maintenance projects on their property. The tool generates a free report which includes maps and informational summaries of landscape elements such as vegetation and fuels to help you assess fire hazards. To learn more, visit wildfirefuelmapper.org.

To date, 2,522 defensible space inspections have been completed. County Fire continues to follow up on complaints and either working with property owners or issuing Notice to Abate Fire hazard orders for unresponsive property owners that put communities at risk.

County Fire is currently working on constructing 13 miles of dozer line in and around Circle Oaks that can be utilized to provide protection to the community during a fire incident.

CAL Fire in conjunction with Firewise are working on a fuel reduction project at the Veterans Home to provide a shaded fuel break that will not only provide protection to the Veterans Home, but to the Town of Yountville itself.

In the Berryessa Highlands community, over 300 sheep were delivered to graze 144 acres and we also re-established 5 miles of dozer line.

October 2023 Headlines

Generation Derek: Born Between 5:04 And 5:05 P.M. On April 9, 1980, Meet The Generation That's Just One Guy

Ron DeSantis Announces He Will Live As Slave For One Year To Prove It Not Bad

Department Of Transportation Announces \$1 Billion Investment In Horses

SNAP Recipients Now Required To Show Starvation-Induced Organ Failure

Nobel Prize In Physics Awarded To God

Generation Derek: Born Between 5:04 And 5:05 P.M. On April 9, 1980, Meet The Generation That's Just One Guy

OpEd: We Need To Stop Sending All Our Money To Ukraine, And Instead Keep It In America Where It Continues To Not Help Poor Americans

Trump Dramatically Out-Pacing Biden in National Poll of Trucks With Political Flags and Giant Bumper Stickers Affixed to Them

New ChatGPT Image Generator Declares: "ALL OF YOUR FACE ARE BELONG TO US"

Republicans Reverse on Senate Dress Code Debate After Learning Rules Infringed Upon Right to Bare Arms

Elon Musk announces new Twitter just for men, called X-Men

AI's inability to identify street lights from a group of pictures the only thing keeping it from annihilating humanity

Mongolia launches full scale invasion of Russia

Like a true patriot, Joe The Plumber refused Obamacare medicine until the end

ON THE HORIZON: MORE WILDFIRE PREVENTION WORK AHEAD

FEMA recently selected Napa County as a recipient of a \$37.5 million Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) grant. As a condition of the grant, Napa County has committed to an additional 25 percent or \$12.5 million match. These funds will help us do the key wildfire prevention work mapped out in the Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP). There will also be some funding available - again, as a match - for homeowners to do "home hardening" projects - that is, projects that make their homes more fire-resistant.

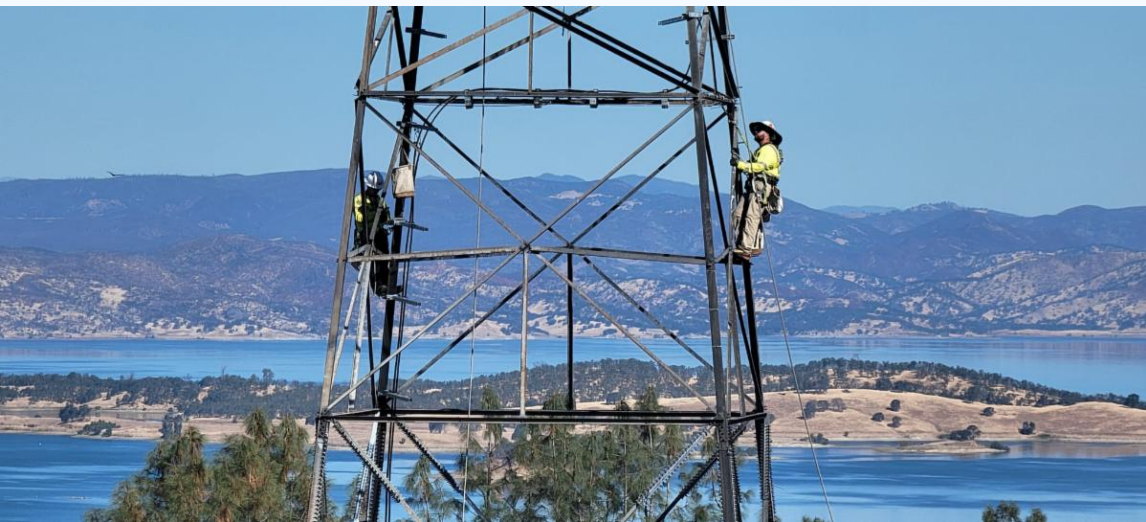
The County is still getting more details on the BRIC funding. The permitting process for the grant projects will begin in late 2024. The funds will be spent over a multi-year timeline. Importantly, BRIC grant dollars will support new projects (e.g. new fuel breaks, or vegetation management) but not maintenance. So the County will need to find ways to fund ongoing maintenance work (e.g. roadside clearing, or mowing and grading of existing dozer lines) which is so critical in keeping our communities safer. But the BRIC grant is very good news for the county because it will allow for new, large-scale, wildfire risk reduction work in the years ahead. (You can read the County's press release about it [here](https://www.countyofnapa.org/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=458).)

<https://www.countyofnapa.org/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=458>

AT&T Finally Repairs Rimrock Road Cell Tower

Service has been provided since the fire by a temporary tower across the road.
How about those working conditions! Photos by Evan Kilkus.





Georgia Craddock Obituary

A Lake Berryessa pioneer and mainstay of the Lake Berryessa Senior Center has left us. Whoever wrote this obituary described Georgia's personality perfectly. It was always a treat to sit and talk with her and Curly.

Georgia M. Craddock passed away on September 25, 2023.

Born October 1, 1928, in Detroit, Michigan, Georgia started her career in Springfield, Ohio

with Ohio Bell at the age of 16 and was instrumental in paving the way for women's equality in the company. She accepted an early retirement from Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Company at the age of 55.

She came to San Francisco in 1950 and met her future husband "Curly" Craddock, a decorated Korean War Veteran and merchant seaman. Together they discovered Lake Berryessa, which was created in 1957. Georgia and Curly were amongst the earliest pioneers that enjoyed fishing, swimming, and water skiing on the lake. They spent all their weekends and holidays at Lake Berryessa, leaving directly from their work on Friday afternoon and returning to their offices early Monday morning. At first, they camped on the lake, then moved into the Spanish Flat Mobile Home Park and eventually purchased their dream home on a secluded knoll overlooking a spectacular lake view.

Georgia loved hosting people and would invite family, friends, friends of friends, coworkers and anyone that was interested in visiting the lake. A weekend at the lake with Georgia and Curly included a big breakfast, all day water-skiing, burgers and hot dogs on a secluded beach cove and a BBQ dinner on their porch overlooking the lake. Eventually Georgia and Curly retired and made the lake house their permanent home.

She narrowly escaped the fire with her life and a small bag carrying a pair of her underwear and some medications. Georgia's final years were spent at the Rockville Terrace Senior Home in Fairfield where again she hosted family, friends, friends of friends and anyone that was interested in paying her a visit. She was a diligent storyteller with an incredible memory and a contagious laugh. Above all, Georgia was a very generous woman who shared everything she owned with everyone.

Published by San Francisco Chronicle on Sep. 28, 2023.

Solano Irrigation District Celebrates 75 years

The Solano Irrigation District celebrated 75 year of service to the community on Sept. 13, 2023. It was founded in 1948 as an independent special district, and a local government agency. The five-member board of directors is elected by registered voters within the boundaries of the district.

SID has entitlements for 141,000 acre feet of agricultural and domestic water for service to many areas in Solano County each year.

The District is also the operator of the Solano Project, which delivers Lake Berryessa water to four cities, the Maine Prairie Water District and SID customers. They also own and operate the hydroelectric power plant at the base of Monticello Dam. Suisun City also partners with them for its water delivery. SID has 81 employees and operates on a \$7 million annual budget. (<https://www.sidwater.org/>)



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October 2023 Horoscopes

Aries (3/21-4/19): Gun crime is said to be rising around the country. Watch out for bullet-shaped objects.

Taurus (4/20 – 5/20): Be wary of all new friends today as they may turn out to be Russian spies, or possibly wannabe astronomers.

Gemini (5/21 – 6/21): Today will seem like a good day for disregarding advice concerning things that are generally considered to be bad for you, but we can promise that you won't die within the next two days.

Cancer (6/22-7/22): Only with your amazing skills were you able to find this horoscope, and for that you will be rewarded with only good news.

Leo (7/23-8/22): Ensure your blood stays within your system today by not venturing further than your refrigerator.

Virgo (8/23-9/22): Why not pick up the phone and yell into it wildly before dialing your required number

Libra (9/23-10/22): Many of the people you admire are going to have incredible fortune this week.

Scorpio (10/23-11/21): Everything you think about yourself will not be called into question this week.

Sagittarius (11/22-12/21): Tensions could rise over coming days when someone close to you opens your mail and then puts it in a drawer without telling you.

Capricorn (12/22-1/19): The night may feel like a safe time to parade naked through the local city streets, however, you may find there are some that oppose your freedom.

Aquarius (1/20-2/18): Your stupidity today will be rivalled only by your embarrassment.

Pisces (2/19-3/20): Tomorrow, when you consider how it could have been, today is going to seem pretty darned swell.

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Lake Berryessa Technical Manual

The Science, Engineering, History, and Humor of a Major Unnatural Resource

Almost everything you ever wanted to know about Lake Berryessa will now be available at your fingertips.

The Kindle version:

https://www.amazon.com/Lake-Berryessa-Technical-Manual-Engineering-ebook/dp/B0C21DZ9M9/ref=sr_1_3?

Paperback version:

https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0C2RTBSJB?ref=pe_3052080_397514860

This technical manual is designed to answer questions people might have about the design and operation of the lake and its facilities. I constantly answer questions from readers about the lake. During the last twenty-five years that I've been at Lake Berryessa, I've had many questions myself. Hopefully, you will enjoy learning about the science and engineering details of Lake Berryessa in this manual, as well as some history and humor.