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The Lake Berryessa News

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July 2023

Happy 4th of July from Lake Berryessa

Special "Bad News" Edition - Sun Outdoors Quits Lake Berryessa!

Another One Bites The Dust!
After two years of wasting the Lake Berryessa community's precious time with no visible progress, Sun Outdoors has bailed out of its commitment to the revitalization of three Lake Berryessa resorts: Steele Canyon Recreation Area, Spanish Flat Recreation Area, and Monticello Shores Recreation Area.

Below is its "I'm so sorry, but..." letter to Napa County.

June 12, 2023: After careful analysis and consideration, Sun has determined that it is no longer feasible to continue with development of the Lake Berryessa Concession sites which we have pursued under our ERN Agreement with the County.

industry, such as escalating costs of labor, materials, and other inputs. Despite our best efforts, these factors coupled with the uncertainty prevailing in the market have significantly diminished the financial feasibility of our projects making them unviable for us to proceed further.

It is with great disappointment that we have arrived at this decision as we had initially embarked on these projects with great enthusiasm and a sincere commitment to delivering exceptional outcomes. We committed to operating the concession areas in the interim incurring financial losses to further demonstrate our commitment to this community. We deeply value our partnership with the County and appreciate the opportunity we were afforded to pursue these projects in such a beautiful location.

We understand the implications of this decision; However, we believe that it is in our collective best interest to relinquish these projects given the challenges and feasibility concerns we have encountered. We remain positive that a project can be executed that will

activate these sites, however unfortunately it is not the project Sun envisioned. We remain committed to maintaining open lines of communication and assisting in any way possible moving forward.

We extend our sincerest gratitude for the opportunities provided, and our apologies for the inconveniences this may cause for the County and all interested parties.

Sincerely, Sun Outdoors

The almost one hour long video of Tuesday's supervisors meeting is available online. You can see it yourself at:
https://napa.granicus.com/player/clip/5365?view_id=3&redirect=true&h=e5e9c9acb90e77bfa1e80679e5a0e178

The Lake Berryessa section is at time stamp 3:20 to 4:10 so you have to scroll to there. The good news is that the supervisors are firm in their support for the Lake Berryessa revitalization process.

(Continued on page 3)



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The Declaration of Independence

July 4, 1776.

When in the Course of human Events, it becomes necessary for one People to dissolve the Political Bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the Powers of the Earth, the separate and equal Station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent Respect to the Opinions of Mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the Separation.

We hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness—That to secure these Rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just Powers from the Consent of the Governed, that whenever any form of Government becomes destructive of these Ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its Foundation on such Principles, and organizing its Powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness.

Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient Causes; and accordingly all Experience hath shewn, that Mankind are more disposed to suffer, while Evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long Train of Abuses and Usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object, evinces a Design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their Right, it is their Duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future Security.

Such has been the patient Sufferance of these Colonies; and such is now the Necessity which constrains them to alter their former Systems of Government. The History of the present King of Great-Britain is a History of repeated Injuries and Usurpations, all having in direct Object the Establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States.

Preamble to the United States Constitution

We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

The Bill of Rights (First 10 Amendments to the U.S. Constitution)

Amendment 1: Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the

press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

Amendment 2: A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.

Amendment 3: No Soldier shall, in time of peace be quartered in any house, without the consent of the Owner, nor in time of war, but in a manner to be prescribed by law.

Amendment 4: The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.

Amendment 5: No person shall be held to answer for a capital, or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a Grand Jury, except in cases arising in the land or naval forces, or in the Militia, when in actual service in time of War or public danger; nor shall any person be subject for the same offense to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb; nor shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself, nor be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation.

Amendment 6: In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury of the State and district wherein the crime shall have been committed, which district shall have been previously ascertained by law, and to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation; to be confronted with the witnesses against him; to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favor, and to have the Assistance of Counsel for his defence.

Amendment 7: In Suits at common law, where the value in controversy shall exceed twenty dollars, the right of trial by jury shall be preserved, and no fact tried by a jury, shall be otherwise re-examined in any Court of the United States, than according to the rules of the common law.

Amendment 8: Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted.

Amendment 9: The enumeration in the Constitution, of certain rights, shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people.

Amendment 10: The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.

The Economic Bill of Rights

Franklin D. Roosevelt (Jan. 11, 1944)

It is our duty now to begin to lay the plans and determine the strategy for the winning of a lasting peace and the establishment of an American standard of living higher than ever before known. We cannot be content, no matter how high that general standard of living may be, if some fraction of our people — whether it be one-third or one-fifth or one-tenth — is ill-fed, ill-clothed, ill-housed, and insecure.

This Republic had its beginning, and grew to its present strength, under the protection of certain inalienable political rights — among them the right of free speech, free press, free worship, trial by jury, freedom from unreasonable searches and seizures. They were our rights to life and liberty.

We have come to a clear realization of the fact that true individual freedom cannot exist without economic security and independence. "Necessitous men are not free men." People who are hungry and out of a job are the stuff of which dictatorships are made.

In our day these economic truths have become accepted as self-evident. We have accepted, so to speak, a second Bill of Rights under which a new basis of security and prosperity can be established for all - regardless of station, race, or creed.

Among these are:

- > The right to a useful and remunerative job in the industries or shops or farms or mines of the nation;
- > The right to earn enough to provide adequate food and clothing and recreation;
- > The right of every farmer to raise and sell his products at a return which will give him and his family a decent living;
- > The right of every businessman, large and small, to trade in an atmosphere of freedom from unfair competition and domination by monopolies at home or abroad;
- > The right of every family to a decent home;
- > The right to adequate medical care and the opportunity to achieve and enjoy good health;
- > The right to adequate protection from the economic fears of old age, sickness, accident, and unemployment;
- > The right to a good education.

"I think of a hero as someone who understands the degree of responsibility that comes with his freedom."

Bob Dylan

Being Safer from Wildfires Can Help With Your Insurance



Safer from Wildfires is a ground-up approach to wildfire resilience with three layers of protection — for the structure, the immediate surroundings, and the community. Following these achievable steps can help you save money on your insurance.



Safer from Wildfires was created by an interagency partnership between Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara and the emergency response and readiness agencies in Governor Gavin Newsom's administration. Learn more at insurance.ca.gov

3 Ways to Get Started with Safer from Wildfires

Don't know where to start? Here are 3 low-cost steps you can take today.



- Keep embers out**
Installing 1/16 to 1/8 inch noncombustible, corrosion-resistant metal mesh screens over attic vents can keep wind-blown embers out of your house.
- Clear the first 5 feet**
Removing greenery and replacing wood chips with stone or decomposed granite 5 feet around your home prevents fire from getting a foot in the door.
- Be safer together**
With Firewise USA, communities as small as 8 dwelling units or as big as 2,500 can create an action plan and start being safer together. Firewise USA is a nationally recognized program with proven results, sponsored by the National Fire Prevention Association.

Do more, save more

Every action under **Safer from Wildfires** will qualify you for an insurance discount. By doing more, you can save more.

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- Noncombustible 6 inches at the bottom of walls
- Ember- and fire-resistant vents
- Double pane windows or added shutters
- Enclosed eaves
- Cleared vegetation and debris from under decks
- Move sheds and outbuildings at least 30 feet away
- Trim trees and remove brush in compliance with state and local defensible space laws
- Neighborhoods can form a Firewise USA community
- Cities, counties, and local districts can become certified as a Fire Risk Reduction Community





- Wildfire Risk Assessments -
- Defensible Space/Forest Management -
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California Wildfire Insurance Program

New Homeowners Insurance Discounts Coming Later This Year

by Evan Kilkus

Since 1950, the severity and frequency of California wildfires have increased. While the reasons for the increases can be debated, the threat to California's property and public safety have risen as a result of the fires. The outbreaks in both 2018 and 2017 resulted in record breaking losses. In recent years, fire claims have grown to tens of billion dollars annually, with more than 70% coming from the last five years alone. To protect the community from these devastating wildfires, there is a new program, the "Safer from Wildfires" program.

Homeowners struggling to find and afford homeowners insurance may have some relief to look forward to the next time they renew their insurance policy. The announcement on the left lays out the steps homeowners need to take to get all the discounts available. While the CA Department of Insurance has mandated that all insurance companies offer their clients these discounts, it is still not clear how much the discounts will be for, or when/how quickly the rates will be rolled out.

The Safer from Wildfires program is a multi-dimensional plan intended to protect the structure, immediate surroundings, and wider community. The framework of the model includes expert-recommended actions that home and business owners can implement to protect themselves from fires.

To incentivize communities and individuals to participate in the Safer from Wildfires program, California will be the first state to require property insurers to offer premium discounts for home and business owners that are executing the guidelines stated in the program.

The Lake Berryessa News will follow up this fall with any updates. If you have questions about how to make your home safer from wildfire, and how to save yourself the most money on your homeowner's insurance, contact

Evan Kilkus
[Complete Wildfire Defense](mailto:Evan@CompleteWildfireDefense.com)
today for a site visit and quick Pre-Insurance Inspection.



Onion Headlines

Russian State Media: Prigozhin dies from long covid complications after accidentally choking on plutonium laced hot dog while falling thru window

After Zelensky visits Pope, Vatican pledges \$10 billion in prayers to defend against Russian missiles

Republicans Surround Hunter Biden Chanting "One of us! One of us!" After Realizing He Plead Guilty To Tax Evasion And Illegal Gun Possession.

'It's Like I Can't Do Anything Right,' Says Woman Pretty Much Hitting Nail On Head

Sam Bankman-Fried Sobs After Accidentally Dropping Last Crypto Down Sewer Grate

CEO's Skill Set Transferable To Any Job That Requires Dumbass To Receive Big Salary

'I'm Working Through My Anger Issues, But Even On My Best Days It's A Struggle,' Screams Marjorie Taylor Greene

New Florida Bill Allows Guns To Start Businesses

Pence Says Decision To Run For President Came After God Told Him He Could Get 6-Figure Speaking Deal From It

Cooking Podcast Host Under Fire For Controversial Claim That Vaccines Give You Potatoes

Outdoors Magazine: Well, The Big Takeaways From Our Annual Seals Issue Are 1) Those Suckers Bite, And 2) Your Other Fingers Aren't Worth Jack Without A Thumb

Orlando Launches Bid For MLB Team In Attempt To Make City More Unappealing

Dad's Entire Parenting Strategy Just Ensuring Son Doesn't Become Yankees Fan

Apple Vision Pro marries the latest in virtual reality technology with looking more stupid than on TikTok.

Russia announces plans to conquer the world in self-defense.

July Horoscopes

Aries (3/21-4/19): Don't use pointers and elaborate charts to describe philosophical concepts. Use those powers for good on Thursday, and you'll be headed for reality TV in no time.

Taurus (4/20 - 5/20): You are always on the move, headed to your next delusion of grandeur.

Gemini (5/21 - 6/21): You have the athleticism of a mollusk. Your workouts would be more effective if you stopped eating between sets.

Cancer (6/22-7/22): Nothing tastes as sweet as winning. Except for winning at the expense of others.

Leo (7/23-8/22): The best of excuses are those that are plausible (so, not ones that involve you, super-powers and hordes of sexy friends).

Virgo (8/23-9/22): Half of what you think you're good at is actually a complete fluke. This week may see the end of your futile efforts to get good at something.

Libra (9/23-10/22): Life will throw many things at you over the coming months, including a bookshelf which you probably should have ensured was fixed more firmly to the wall.

Scorpio (10/23-11/21): Put your mental abilities to the test today and try to figure out how best to spend the money you have in a non-frivolous way

Sagittarius (11/22-12/21): One man cannot make himself into an army of super-strength midgets. No matter what his budget.

Capricorn (12/22-1/19): You may be feeling sporty today but don't spend all that money on new sports gear and equipment. You are likely to lose interest in this new found "passion" within 20 days.

Aquarius (1/20-2/18): It's never too late to do that thing you always wanted to do. You know - the THING. The thing? You know.

Pisces (2/19-3/20): Many things that people say over the coming days will appear nonsensical, but may start to make sense towards the end of the week.

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.

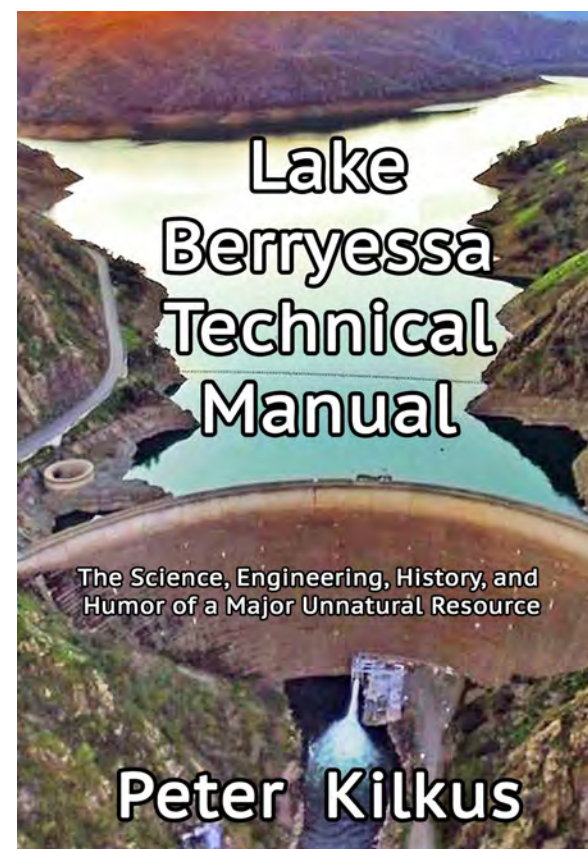
The Kindle version:

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.



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The Lake Berryessa News

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(Continue from Page 1)

At the Supervisors meeting on Tuesday, several questions were answered. Sun Outdoors will continue to operate Steele Canyon and Spanish Flat until October 30, 2023. After that point Napa County has committed to operate both resorts until another permanent concessioner is chosen.

Sun Outdoors has agreed to give Napa County the results of all the environmental studies they have completed to date along with the assistance of Sun engineers to assist the county in understanding the work completed.

Suntex which operates Pleasure Cove Marina and won the contract to redevelop Berryessa Point would like to change their management from the Bureau of Reclamation to that of Napa County. Suntex is making good progress on their plan and environmental studies for Berryessa Point. It makes good business sense for them to consolidate their operations under Napa County's management.

The following letter from Grant Sedgwick outline a minimalist "rosy scenario". Grant is the co-author, with Richard Ragatz, of the excellent, still valid, 2017 Ragatz Report, Lake Berryessa : An Untapped Resort Development Opportunity

Subject: Lake Berryessa Resort Sites - Update

The decision by Sun Communities, Inc. to relinquish its Exclusive Right to Negotiate regarding the redevelopment of three recreation sites at Lake Berryessa is clearly an unexpected setback. The decision to select this company over other bidders, in response to the County's Request for Proposals, was substantially based on Sun's unique vision for the opportunity, proven financial capability and development expertise.

Apparently unanticipated site conditions, dramatic construction cost increases and uncertain financial markets have all contributed to the company's decision to abandon the effort. Nonetheless, representatives of the company continue to believe that some redevelopment concept(s) are still feasible - but not theirs.

Sun's gross revenue increased by almost 30% between 2021 and 2022; EBITDA increased by some 21%. In spite of this healthy financial performance, the company's share price has lost some ground along with other REITs. Since submitting the RFP response, Sun's stock has traded down about 11% but financial distress does not seem to be a factor in the decision to back away from Berryessa.

The County has a couple of options for 'next steps' including (i) pursue negotiations with other proponents who responded to the November 2020 Request for Proposals, or (ii) issue new and revised RFPs for one, two or all three of the concession areas that had been previously awarded to Sun.

In the short time we've had to consider these alternatives, since becoming aware of Sun's likely decision, we've contacted one of the previous proponents, as well as an experienced marina operator that was not part of the earlier competition and a luxury hospitality operator that, similarly, did not submit a previous proposal. It is evident, based on these conversations, that there are resort developers and operators that would be enthusiastic about putting forward a proposal.

That said, current market conditions are considerably more uncertain than was the case in late 2020 and early 2021. County staff, with our assistance, will reach out to the other respondents to the November 2020 RFP to determine if there is continued strong interest. If not, a new Request for Proposals will be circulated. That request will encourage collaborative responses, where appropriate, between qualified firms and individuals that have differentiated skill sets. There are very few firms that, like Sun and Suntex, have both marina and land-based hospitality expertise.

Sincerely,

Grant Sedgwick

Several alternatives exist for finding alternative concessioners. One is to contact previous bidders who may still be interested in the Lake Berryessa opportunities and continue negotiations with them. Another is to rewrite and re-issue a new bid prospectus with a shortened time scale for evaluating the bids.

However, the time frame for accomplishing any results from even an accelerated process will be minimally 60 - 150 days.

Several suggestions were made to modify the bid process to allow a bidder to only bid on one resort.

Another suggestion was to simplify the potential amenities required to be constructed. The problem with that idea is that there is a balance between

amenities provided and the revenue needed to support a profitable business model.

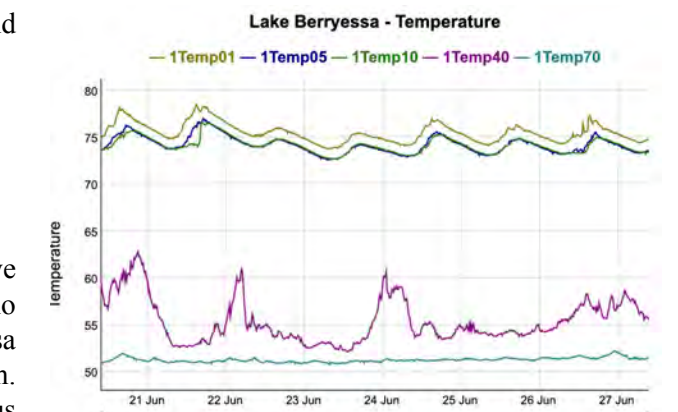
Reclamation and Napa County temporarily ban ash-producing fires at Lake Berryessa

At the request of Napa County, the Bureau of Reclamation is banning the use of charcoal and other ash-producing fuels at Lake Berryessa's recreation areas, including recreation concession areas and campgrounds, starting June 26.

In a collective effort to improve public safety, this lake-wide fire ban will remain in effect until further notice. Reclamation will be informed by the Napa County Fire Marshall when the fire ban may be safely lifted and continues coordination efforts with Napa County and local fire agencies in the interim.

Cooking fires using charcoal briquettes and wood campfires create embers that can easily be blown into dry vegetation, igniting wildfires. During this temporary ban, only propane-fueled fire pits, stoves, and barbecue grills will be permitted at Lake Berryessa.

Park rangers or campground hosts, and posted signs, will inform visitors of the temporary ban upon entrance to recreation areas.



Lake Berryessa Views Close to Lake Access

1051 Blueridge Drive

Offered at: \$519,000

<https://blueridge-drive.com/>

This lovely 2-bedroom, 2-bath home in the Berryessa Pines at Lake Berryessa is ready for a new owner to make memories! Come in off of a full day on the lake and BBQ on the deck enjoying the sunset in the background. The open floor plan gives the interior an expansive feel. Abundant room for boat/RV parking. Located only a stone's throw from Lake Berryessa. **Make this home your Lake home!**

4 Water and Sewer Rates Overwhelm Berryessa Highlands Residents

(Excerpted from a Napa Register story by Barry Eberling June 10, 2023)

Berryessa Highlands faces hard math when it comes to running the water and wastewater systems needed for this small, remote community near Lake Berryessa to survive. Residents pay an average of \$4,220 annually for these vital services, more than twice as much as what a city of Napa resident might pay. Yet the systems face red ink and require upgrades

The obvious solution is raising rates. But a proposed \$2,500 annual boost is proving to be a non-starter with both residents and Napa County, leaving the situation up in the air. The county Board of Supervisors discussed options on June 27. All Napa County taxpayers have a stake in this. The county is poised to loan the Highlands system \$1 million, on top of \$2.8 million the county has already loaned over a decade.

There are reasons for hope — an adjacent resort could open in a few years to shoulder some of the system costs. More Highlands homes could be built. Federal and state grants might pay for needed wastewater and water system improvements.

Meanwhile, some Berryessa Highlands residents worry about the present. Berryessa Highlands began in the 1960s as a kind of paradise on hills overlooking Lake Berryessa. The idea was people could enjoy the good life out here in a what amounted to a resort setting along a reservoir 26 miles long and 3 miles wide. Today, it has about 250 homes. But there's trouble in paradise.

One resident has seen his fire insurance rise to \$6,000 annually with a \$45,000 deductible. Now he faces rising water and wastewater costs on a fixed income. It's a common story for small water and wastewater systems in California. Aging equipment must be replaced, state and federal standards must be met and there are only a few hundred customers over which to spread the costs.

The state Water Resources Control Board has identified more than 300 water systems in California that fail to meet drinking water standards, usually because of costs. Despite its economic woes, the Berryessa Highlands system is not on the list, though it is listed as "potentially at risk."

Christopher Silke, engineer for the Napa Berryessa Resort Improvement District, described some things that exacerbated the problems for the Berryessa Highlands wastewater and water systems. A blow came in 2008,

when the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation closed and later razed the old Steele Park resort near the Highlands so it could be renovated, something that has yet to happen. Only a camping/RV version of the resort is open today. The old resort used and paid for water and wastewater services equivalent to 228 homes.

Another blow came in 2020, when the LNU Lightning Complex Fire burned about 100 Highlands homes, leaving about 250. All of this meant fewer customers to spread the water and wastewater system costs among. The district for 2022-23 is expecting revenues of less than \$800,000 and expenses of more than \$1.2 million, in part because of the need to make repairs in the wake of last winter's large storms.

Napa County has tried to help. The county Board of Supervisors sits as the Napa Berryessa Resort Improvement District Board of Trustees that runs the systems. The county since 2009 has loaned the district \$2.8 million. County Public Works Director Steven Lederer said more is needed to balance this fiscal year's budget and keep the district from going bankrupt.

In fact, district staff wants another \$1 million loan from the county to also cover some of the operations and maintenance expenses for the coming fiscal year as well, buying time to find that elusive solution to the financial woes. Whether the county will keep loaning money indefinitely to the Berryessa Highlands water and wastewater systems is another question. At this point, it's unclear when and if the loans will be repaid.

"So, the question becomes, why are we subsidizing the water and wastewater of these residents and not other residents who likewise are feeling economic pressures?" County Board of Supervisors Chairperson Belia Ramos said at the April 18 board meeting.

Supervisor Alfredo Pedroza has the Berryessa Highlands area in his supervisor district. "I do believe the county has been a good partner with the residents of Berryessa in trying to minimize any cost impacts," Pedroza said. "But we're at a point where we can't keep doing what we're doing."

There are possible silver linings. One is the hoped-for rebirth of the old Steele Park resort as a new Steele Canyon resort, possibly with a marina, glamping, dining and retail. The county stepped in to jumpstart the Bureau of Reclamation's unsuccessful renovation attempts and in 2021 identified Sun Communities as a possible, new resort operator. However, Sun Outdoors just backed out of its plans to redevelop Steele Canyon, Spanish Flat, and Monticello Shores. One obstacle was the high cost for

Sun to connect to and use the Berryessa Highlands system. The Country is scrambling to find a new operator.

Another piece is the rebuilding over time the homes burned in the LNU Lightning Complex fire, providing more customers to pay for the water and wastewater systems. Still another possibility is doing a household income survey that would establish Berryessa Highlands as a disadvantaged community. Silke said such status would open the doors to grants for the water and wastewater systems. Berryessa Highlands failed to qualify when the county did a survey about five years ago, given its average income was too high. Napa County will see if anything has changed.

Meanwhile, the county is considering options for Berryessa Highlands water and sewer customers. Customers on average pay \$2,880 annually in water and sewer rates, plus a \$1,100 annual assessment related to a federal loan, plus a \$240 annual fee. The county estimates an 89% rate increase is needed. But that comes to an average annual increase of more than \$2,500 and appears to be off the table.

One option still being looked at combines a 53% rate increase with an \$800 annual fee on developed parcels and \$400 fee on undeveloped parcels. Another simply calls for a \$1,180 annual fee on any parcels. Neither idea was met by enthusiasm when county officials explained the situation to about 14 Berryessa Highlands residents attending a May 9 community meeting at Lake Berryessa.

Ironically, the sewer and water systems that are such a sore point for Berryessa Highlands today were selling points at the subdivision's birth in the mid-1960s. What amounts to advertising copy in the May 5, 1966, St. Helena Star described the lots available for as low as \$3,090 at the Highlands. It described a 1,500-acre wooded peninsula as a destination for Bay Area and Sacramento-area weekenders. "Lot owners at Berryessa Highlands will enjoy such conveniences as full underground utilities, engineered sewer and water systems and wide paved roads," the story said.

But the article also mentioned up to 2,000 lots, which would have meant a lot more homeowners supporting those sewer and water systems. Other reports have Berryessa Highlands ultimately having as many as 4,000 homes. Like the mention of a lakeside golf course, that vision of a much larger Highlands never came to be.

Lake Berryessa Statistics: June 30, 2023

The lake level started falling on May 11 and is down now to 428.5' - 11.5' below Glory Hole and dropping slowly at about 4 inches per week.

The dam output has risen from the minimum 45 cfs required by law and contract to an average of 490 cfs driven by Solano County agricultural requirements as the weather warms and the growing season begins.

Evaporation is about .25 inches per day. The Gamble Gauge has dropped to 87.0% capacity.

Lake water temperatures are running about 75 degrees at the surface to 10 feet down and around 55 degrees from 40 feet to the bottom.

Lake Berryessa Boater Outreach Program

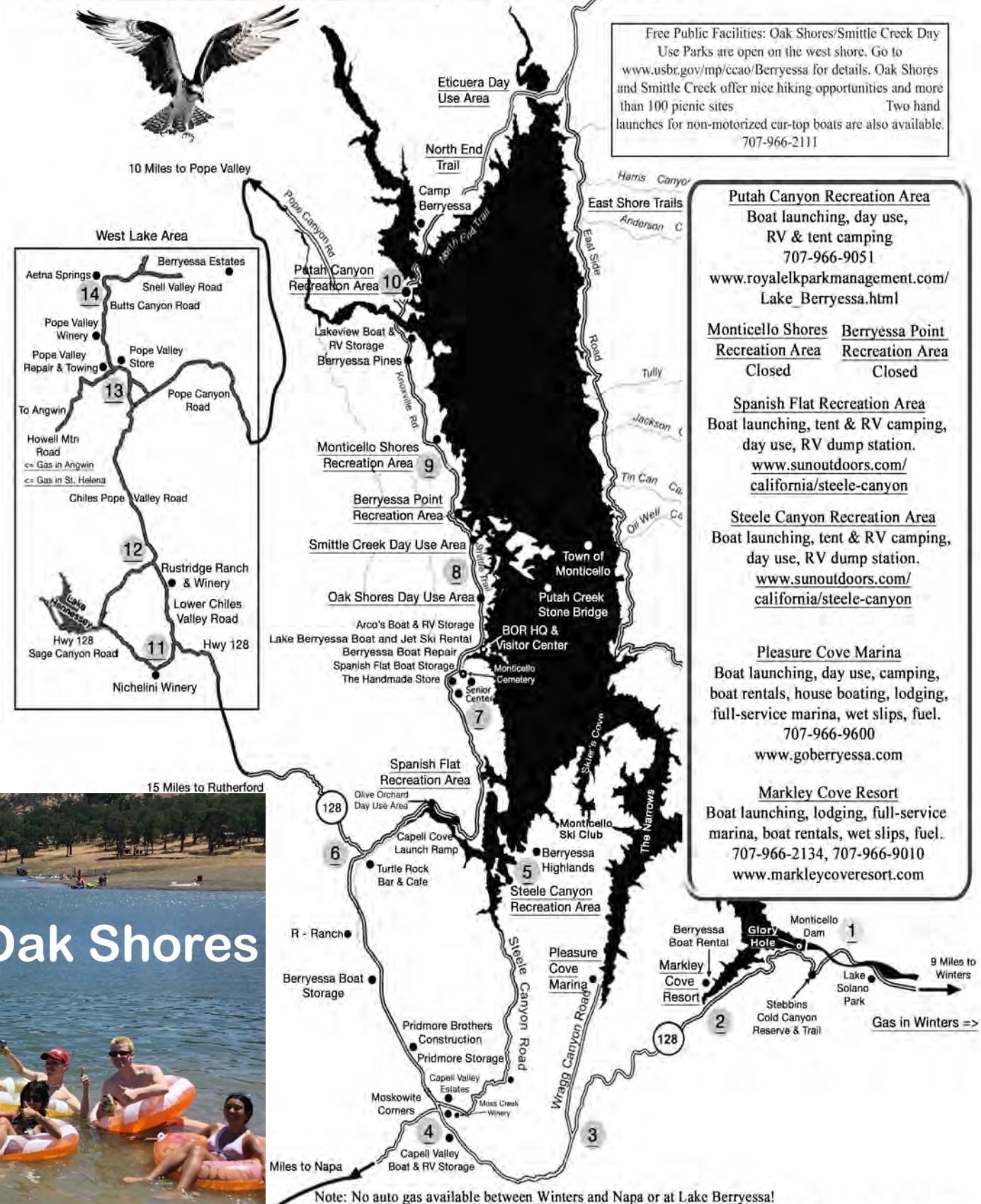
The program is managed by the Solano Resource Conservation District, and uses person to person interaction to promote individual water quality stewardship to safeguard drinking water, infrastructure, and the ecosystem. The Solano County Water Agency manages an invasive mussel prevention program where interns implement a screening and inspection protocol to prevent the introduction of invasive zebra or quagga mussels.

The Lake Berryessa Boater Outreach Program began May 21st and will conclude Labor Day Weekend. Interns conduct outreach on Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays. The Mussel Prevention Program occurs 7 days a week May through September with occasional inspections continuing throughout the rest of the year.

Bilgee the Bilge Pad went to Oak Shores to greet recreators for the first time this summer. 43 people completed a survey. Responses to "How do you keep Lake Berryessa clean" included not littering in or near the lake, recycling cans and bottles, and using bilge pads to prevent oil leakage.



The Greater Lake Berryessa Region



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

Putah Canyon Recreation Area
Boat launching, day use, RV & tent camping
707-966-9051
www.royalelkparkmanagement.com/Lake_Berryessa.html

Monticello Shores Recreation Area
Closed

Berryessa Point Recreation Area
Closed

Spanish Flat Recreation Area
Boat launching, tent & RV camping, day use, RV dump station.
www.sunoutdoors.com/california/steele-canyon

Steele Canyon Recreation Area
Boat launching, tent & RV camping, day use, RV dump station.
www.sunoutdoors.com/california/steele-canyon

Pleasure Cove Marina
Boat launching, day use, camping, boat rentals, house boating, lodging, full-service marina, wet slips, fuel.
707-966-9600
www.goberryessa.com

Markley Cove Resort
Boat launching, lodging, full-service marina, boat rentals, wet slips, fuel.
707-966-2134, 707-966-9010
www.markleycoveresort.com

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