

**MONTEREY COUNTY WATER RESOURCES AGENCY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
RESERVOIR OPERATIONS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Richard Ortiz, Chair
Ken Ekelund
Glen Dupree
Mike Scattini
John Baillie
Benny Jefferson
Jon Anthony

Eric Morgan
Bill Lipe
Mark Sandoval
Ron Munds
Don Bullard
Kevin Piearcy
Matthew Simis

TIME: 1:30 p.m.
DATE: Thursday, May 31, 2018
PLACE: Monterey County Water Resources Agency
Saffron Conference Room (1st Floor)
1441 Schilling Place, South Building
Salinas, CA 93901

AGENDA

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Public Comment**
(Limited to three (3) minutes per speaker on matters within the jurisdiction of the Agency not listed on this agenda. The public will have the opportunity to ask questions and make statements on agenda items as the Committee considers them.)
- 3. Approve the Minutes of the Reservoir Operations Advisory Committee Meeting held on April 26, 2018**
The Committee will consider approval of the minutes of the above-mentioned meeting (Attachment 1).
- 4. Review the status of both reservoirs and current releases, and the release schedule for 2018.**
Staff will present a summary of current conditions at both reservoirs, provide a synopsis of release changes that have occurred since the last meeting (Attachments 2, 2a, and 3).
- 5. Review the release schedule for 2018.**
Staff will review the release schedule for 2018 (Attachment 4).

- 6. Report regarding the update of the Operation Policy Manual for San Antonio Dam**
Staff will present a verbal report regarding the update of the Operation Policy Manual for San Antonio Dam.
- 7. Report regarding Operations and Maintenance activities at the Reservoirs**
Staff will present a verbal report discussing the Operations and Maintenance activities at both reservoirs over the last month.
- 8. Report regarding Interlake Tunnel Project**
Staff will present a verbal report discussing a Memorandum of Understanding the Agency has been developing with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife regarding fish screen criteria and other activities related to the Interlake Tunnel Project.
- 9. Status reports on:**
 - A. Lake recreation by Concessionaire and Parks Department**
 - B. Easements and Agency Leases**
 - C. Quagga / Zebra Mussel Plan**
 - D. San Luis Obispo County Activities**
 - E. National Marine Fisheries Service**
- 10. Set next meeting date and discuss future Agenda items**
The Committee will discuss and determine details for its next meeting.
- 11. Adjournment**

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TIME: 1:30 p.m.
DATE: Thursday, April 26, 2018
PLACE: 1441 Schilling Place, Saffron Room (1st Floor)
Salinas, CA 93901

MINUTES

1. **Call to Order at 1:30 p.m. A quorum was established.**

Members present: Ortiz, Ekelund, Dupree, Baillie, Jefferson, Lipe, Nate Merkle (for Sandoval), Mathew Tallone (for Munds), Steve Blois (for Bullard), Morgan, and Simis

Members absent: Scattini, Anthony, and Pearcy

Arrived Late: Merkle arrived at 1:34 p.m

2. **Public Comment:** Lipe, Blois, Ekelund, and Nancy Isakson.

3. **Approve the Minutes of the Reservoir Operations Advisory Committee Meeting held on March 29, 2018**

Committee Action: On motion and second of Committee members Baillie and Dupree, the Committee approved the Minutes provided the corrections noted at the meeting are made for the Reservoir Operations Advisory Committee Meeting held on March 29, 2018.

Ayes: Ortiz, Ekelund, Dupree, Baillie, Jefferson, Lipe, Merkle, Tallone, Morgan, and Simis

Noes: None

Abstained: Blois

4. **Review the status of both reservoirs, current releases, and the release schedule for 2018.**

Jason Demers, Hydrologist and Germán Criollo, Associate Hydrologist, reported on this item.

Public Comment: Nancy Isakson

5. Discussion regarding the Ad Hoc Committee to update the Operation Policy Manual for San Antonio Dam

Brent Buche, Deputy General Manager and Germán Criollo, reported on this item.

Public Comment: Nancy Isakson

6. Report regarding Operations and Maintenance activities at the Reservoirs

Brent Buche, reported on this item.

7. Report regarding Interlake Tunnel Project

Brent Buche, reported on this item.

8. Status reports on:

A. Lake recreation by Concessionaire and Parks Department

Nate Merkle reported on this item.

B. Easements and Agency Leases

None

C. Quagga / Zebra Mussel Plan

Matt Tallone reported on this item.

D. San Luis Obispo County Activities

Matt Tallone reported on this item.

E. National Marine Fisheries Service

None

9. Set next meeting date and discuss future Agenda items

The next meeting is scheduled for May 31, 2018 at 1:30 p.m. at the Agency. Bill Lipe requested an agenda item for adding Eric Morgan to the San Antonio Operation Policy AdHoc Committee.

Public Comment: Nancy Isakson

10. Adjournment at 2:43 p.m.

Submitted by: Rebecca De La Rosa

**MONTEREY COUNTY WATER RESOURCES AGENCY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
RESERVOIR OPERATIONS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Richard Ortiz, Chair
Ken Ekelund
Glen Dupree
Mike Scattini
John Baillie
Jon Anthony
Benny Jefferson

Kevin Pearcy
Eric Morgan
Bill Lipe
Mark Sandoval
Jill Ogren
Don Bullard
Matthew Simis

TIME: 1:30 p.m.
DATE: Thursday, March 29, 2018
PLACE: 1441 Schilling Place, Saffron Room (1st Floor)
Salinas, CA 93901

MINUTES

1. **Call to Order at 1:30 p.m. A quorum was established.**

Members present: Ortiz, Ekelund, Dupree, Baillie, Anthony, Jefferson, Lipe, Merkle (for Sandoval), Tallone (for Ogren), Bullard, Pearcy, and Simis

Members absent: Scattini and Morgan

Left Early: Ortiz at 1:55 p.m. and Baillie at 3:01 p.m.

Arrived Late: Pearcy at 1:55 p.m.

2. **Public Comment: Bullard**

3. **Approve the Minutes of the Reservoir Operations Advisory Committee Meeting held on February 22, 2018.**

Committee Action: On motion and second of Committee members Ekelund and Dupree, the Committee approved the Minutes of the Reservoir Operations Advisory Committee Meeting held on February 22, 2018.

Ayes: Ortiz, Ekelund, Dupree, Anthony, Lipe, Merkle, Tallone, and Simis

Noes: Bullard

Abstained: Baillie and Jefferson

4. **Consider forming an Ad Hoc Committee to update the Operation Policy Manual for San Antonio Dam.**

The Ad Hoc Committee members selected by Chair Ortiz are: Richard Ortiz, Glen Dupree, John Baillie, Benny Jefferson, Kevin Pearcy and Ron Munds.

5. Review the status of both reservoirs and current releases.

Jason Demers, Hydrologist, presented item

6. Consider recommending that the Monterey County Water Resources Agency Board of Directors adopts a release schedule for Nacimiento and San Antonio reservoirs for 2018.

Germán Criollo, Associate Hydrologist presented item.

Committee Action: On motion and second of Committee members Baillie and Jefferson, the Committee recommended that the Monterey County Water Resources Agency Board of Directors adopts a release schedule for Nacimiento and San Antonio reservoirs for 2018

Ayes: Ekelund, Baillie, Anthony, Jefferson, Lipe, Merkle, Tallone, Pearcy, and Simis

Noes: Bullard and Dupree

Public Comment: Nancy Isakson, Bill Capps, Scott Duffield and Bill Stevens.

7. Report regarding Operations and Maintenance activities at the Reservoirs

Germán Criollo, Associate Hydrologist, provided verbal report.

Public Comment: Bill Stevens

8. Report regarding Interlake Tunnel Project

David Chardavoyne, General Manager, presented this item.

9. Status reports on:

A. Lake recreation by Concessionaire and Parks Department

Jon Anthony reported on this item.

B. Easements and Agency Leases

Ken Ekelund reported on this item.

C. Quagga / Zebra Mussel Plan

Jon Anthony, Don Bullard and Matt Tallone reported on this item.

D. San Luis Obispo County Activities

Nate Merkle and Matt Tallone reported on this item.

E. National Marine Fisheries Service

Bill Stevens reported on this item.

Public Comment: Bill Capps

10. Set next meeting date and discuss future Agenda items

The next meeting is scheduled for April 26, 2018 at 1:30 p.m.

11. Adjournment at 3:35 p.m.

Submitted by: Rebecca De La Rosa

Reservoir Release Update

RECOMMENDATION:

None – item presented for informational purposes.

SUMMARY/DISCUSSION:

The Reservoir Operations Advisory Committee receives monthly updates on the status of Agency reservoirs.

RESERVOIR ELEVATION / STORAGE: As of May 24, 2018, San Antonio Reservoir is at an elevation of approximately 721.1 feet mean sea level (msl), 106,550 acre-feet of storage. Nacimiento Reservoir is at elevation 752.6 feet msl, 159,920 acre-feet of storage. San Antonio Reservoir is currently at 32% of storage capacity and Nacimiento Reservoir is at 42% of capacity.

RESERVOIR RELEASES: Conservation releases are being made from both reservoirs for groundwater recharge and operation of the Salinas River Diversion Facility in accordance with the requirements of the Salinas Valley Water Project Biological Opinion.

Minor fluctuations in release rates are not presented in this report but are documented in the Salinas Valley Water Project Annual Flow Reports.

Releases as of May 24, 2018:

- Nacimiento Reservoir: 420 cfs
- San Antonio Reservoir: 115 cfs

Total releases from both reservoirs to the Salinas River are approximately 535 cfs. The following “provisional” flows have been recorded by the USGS:

- Salinas River near Bradley: 606 cfs
- Salinas River at Soledad: 377 cfs
- Salinas River near Chualar: 134 cfs
- Salinas River near Spreckels: 57 cfs

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT:

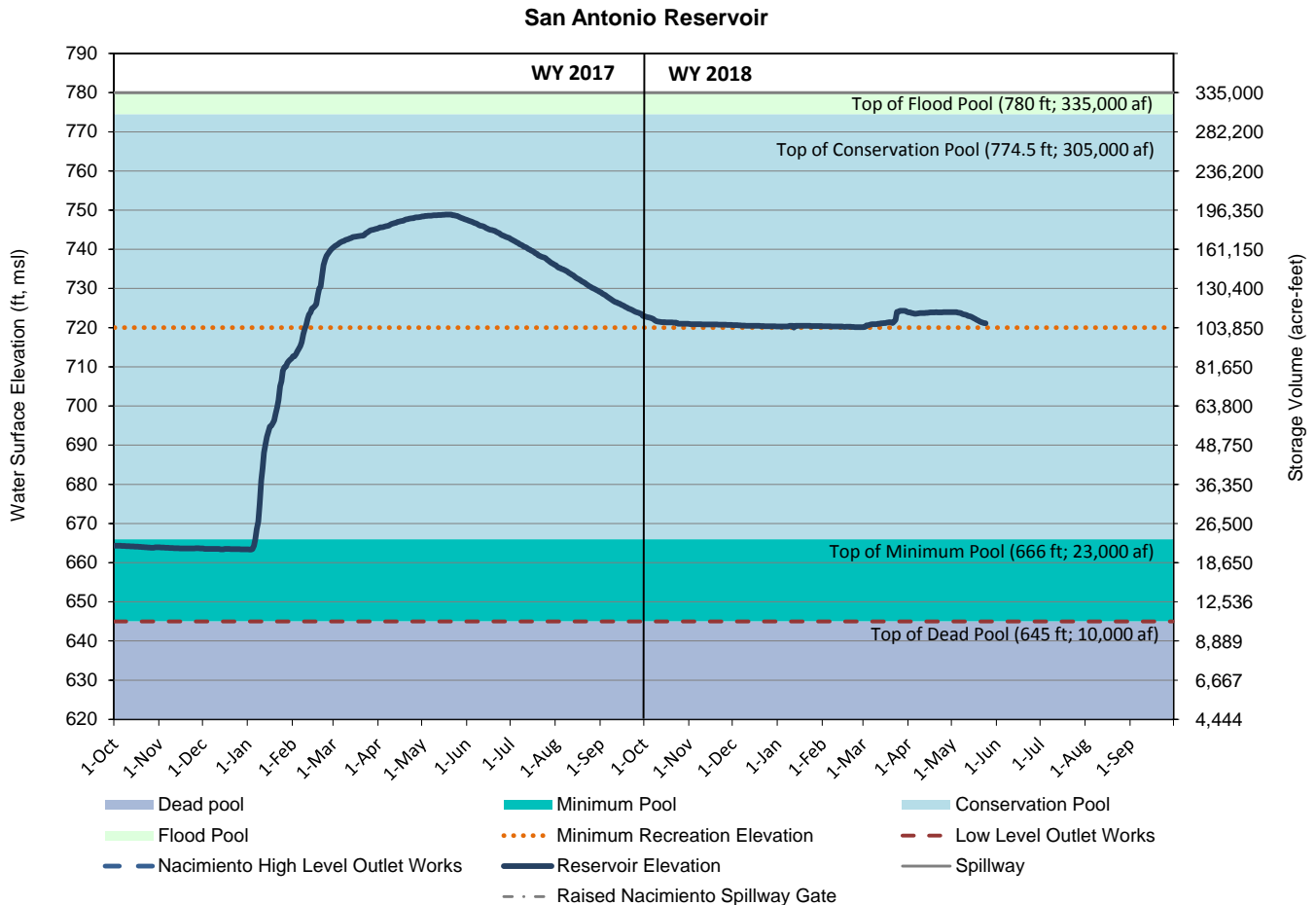
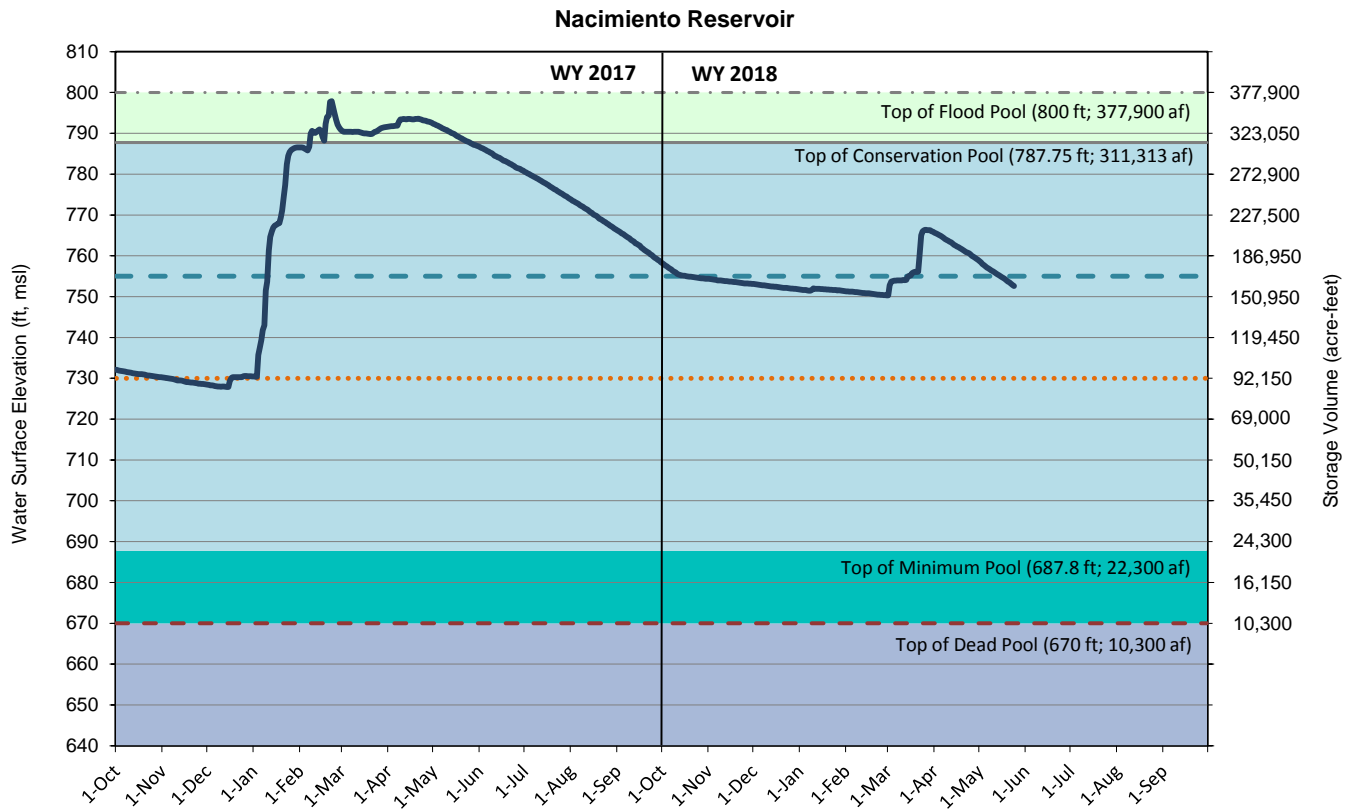
None

FINANCING:

None

Prepared by: Germán Criollo, Associate Hydrologist, (831) 755-4860
Jason Demers, Hydrologist, (831) 755-4860

Reservoir Elevation and Storage



MONTEREY COUNTY WATER RESOURCES AGENCY
Preliminary - Estimated Elevation/Storage/NWP Diversions after May 1st

5/24/2018

	NACIMIENTO									SAN ANTONIO				
	Combined Releases (cfs)*	Combined Releases (ac-ft)	Evap. Losses (ac-ft)**	Reservoir Releases (cfs)*	Reservoir Releases (ac-ft)	NWP Orders (ac-ft)	NWP Diversions (ac-ft)	Storage (ac-ft)	Elev. (ft)	Evap. Losses (ac-ft)**	Reservoir Releases (cfs)*	Reservoir Releases (ac-ft)	Storage (ac-ft)	Elev. (ft)
1/1/2018								156,988	751.8				104,585	720.3
2/1/2018	70	4,304	393	60	3,689	484	275	155,435	751.3	254	10	615	104,708	720.4
3/1/2018	70	3,888	507	60	3,332	701	345	151,985	750.3	311	10	555	104,095	720.1
4/1/2018	233	14,303	641	162	9,977	972	504	209,250	765.7	461	70	4,326	113,645	723.9
5/1/2018	534	31,770	1,086	487	28,993	947	539	181,975	758.7	853	47	2,777	113,773	724.0
6/1/2018	631	38,807	1,664	450	27,650	1,661		152,656	750.5	1,207	181	11,157	102,320	719.4
7/1/2018	720	42,844	2,056	400	23,802	2,199		124,602	741.7	1,456	320	19,042	81,839	710.1
8/1/2018	769	47,257	1,950	345	21,223	2,235		99,197	732.7	1,228	423	26,033	54,597	694.1
9/1/2018	792	48,715	1,608	392	24,119	1,985		71,489	721.2	817	400	24,595	29,203	673.0
10/1/2018	189	11,266	1,118	111	6,625	1,899		61,832	716.5	435	78	4,641	24,114	667.2
11/1/2018	70	4,304	738	60	3,689	1,674		55,714	713.2	286	10	615	23,198	666.1
12/1/2018	70	4,165	356	60	3,570	1,024		50,754	710.3	149	10	595	22,446	665.1
1/1/2019	70	4,304	209	60	3,689	450		46,400	707.7	93	10	615	21,733	664.2
TOTALS:		255,927	12,325		160,360	16,231	1,663			7,551		95,567		

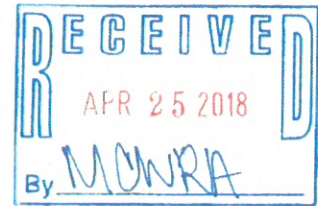
* Mean daily flow for the month in cubic feet per second.

** Future Evap. Losses estimated from long term pan evaporation data at Nacimiento and San Antonio Reservoirs and replaced with calculated values once available.

NOTES:

1. Nacimiento Reservoir storage capacity 377,900 acre feet.
2. San Antonio Reservoir storage capacity 335,000 acre feet.
3. Reservoir Operations Committee may make release considerations for fish spawn and holiday periods to benefit recreation.
4. Shaded areas represent periods when elevations could be influenced by inflow/runoff; releases may include flood control releases.
5. Preliminary Schedule assumes no inflow to reservoirs after June 1st.
6. "NWP Diversions" are San Luis Obispo County - Nacimiento Water Project conveyance facilities diversions. Max. allowable diversions for water year (Oct. 1 - Sept. 30) are 15,750 ac-ft.
7. NACIMIENTO "NWP Diversions" do not include lakeside water use which is estimated at approximately 1,750 acre feet per year.

Joanne Nissen
Rt. 1 Box 99
Soledad, CA 93960



April 24, 2018

Monterey County Water Resources Agency
Reservoir Operations Advisory Committee

Re: Reservoir Releases

Dear Committee Members,

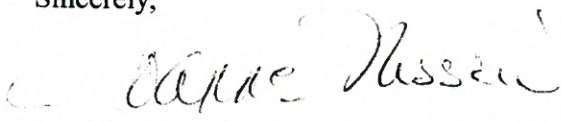
As I will be unable to attend your April 26, 2018 meeting, I am submitting this letter with a request that the committee consider the Salinas River Stream Maintenance Program participants as you formulate your reservoir releases going forward this year.

As you may recall, in 2014, a group of land owners and growers joined together to participate in a stream maintenance program in the Gonzales and Chualar stretch of the Salinas River. The object was added flood protection for adjacent cropland and increased holding capacity for the river flood plain. This project involved permitting from the Corps of Engineers (401 permit), CA Fish and Wildlife (1600 permit) and the State Regional Water Quality Control Board 401 certification and was and is entirely paid for by land owners and/or growers. In 2016, the program area increased from mile 2 upstream to the San Luis Obispo County line, and involves clearing secondary channels and removable of arundo.

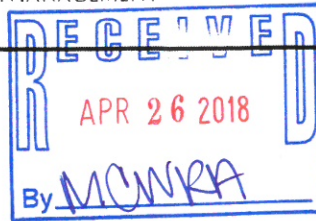
As many of the properties fall on both sides of the river, it is most cost effective to be able to cross the dry channel to work on both sides of the low flow channel as opposed to hauling equipment around to the opposite side. The permits allow work to begin September 1st each year. As I requested last year, I am encouraging this committee, especially in this short rainfall year, to dry the channel up in time to help us complete maintenance work in the most efficient and least costly manner.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Joanne Nissen



Dear Sirs,

April 18, 2018

As representatives of property owners, concerned citizens, recreation, sports and water enthusiasts who enjoy Lake Nacimiento, California we the Nacimiento Regional Water Management Advisory Committee (NRWMAC) have great concern as to the abuse and lack of proper water management by Monterey County Water Resources Agency (MCWRA) per the terms of the lease afforded to them by the California State Water Board.

We understand that rainwater in and of itself is owned by the people of the state of California. It is the impoundment of water, as is contained in Lake Nacimiento that is a right granted by the State of California Department of Water Resources Division of Safety of Dams (Application Number 1008). The right to the use of the water of the Nacimiento River in San Luis Obispo County was granted to Monterey County Water Resources in 1954 as permit 10137 and License 7543 for the purpose of irrigation, domestic, municipal, industrial and **recreational** uses.

It is the opinion of our committee, which is supported by the 6000 + constituents that have signed the attached petition that this water right is being abused. Specifically, the lack of attention to the recreational use aspect of the water. The last California four year drought was diminished by a good rain year in early 2017. Yet over the summer of 2017 that water was wantonly discharged from Lake Nacimiento.

Once again, this water year, for the early part of 2018, has seen minimal rainfall and water accumulation, yet MCWRA has chosen to release water at an astounding rate considering that the flow has proceeded directly into the Pacific Ocean. We completely understand the ecological factors and the environmental protection afforded to the steelhead trout by means of the biological opinion and flow prescription described therein that define some operational aspect of the lake water release. As this allows for specific water release periods to insure flows for upstream and downstream fish migrations. The timing and magnitude of those releases are not in question but rather the early water releases that have already begun this year and the projected lake level of 745 feet above mean sea level (msl) on June 1st 2018, a mere 4 days after memorial day and the official start of summer. At this level the lake is barely unusable for recreation.

Our organization, NRWMAC, has continuously maintained that the minimum recreational lake level is 750 feet msl. It is below this level that most boaters and recreationalists cannot launch their boats and access the water from the numerous locations around Lake Nacimiento.



MCWRA has continuously ignored the recreational aspect of their water rights permit ...

WE would like Monterey county to

1. Reduce the proposed release schedule to maximize water storage during drought periods,
2. Respect the minim recreation level of 750 ft msl through Labor day,
3. Recognize that below 750 ft msl recreational lake use is severely impacted.

Don Bullard
Board of Directors, President
dbullard@nrwmac.org
818-319-2628

cc (Petition signatures to follow via mail)
Monterey County Supervisors
San Luis Obispo County Supervisors
California Department of Water Resources
Integrated Regional Water Management
California State Water Resources Board
Governor Edmund G Brown, Jr.
Central Coast Regional Board
State Assembly: Jordan Cunningham
State Senate: Bill Monning
United States Senator of California: Dianne Feinstein
United States Congressman Salud Carbajal
National Fisheries Service
National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration



PETITION to Prohibit the Proposed Water Releases at Lake Nacimiento

We, the undersigned, are concerned citizens and residents who demand that the Monterey County Water Resources Agency (MCWRA), be prohibited from proceeding with its stated plans to increase the rate at which it releases water from Lake Nacimiento.

MCWRA has recently published its Draft Water Release Schedule for the balance of the year 2018 for Lake Nacimiento and Lake San Antonio. Beginning in mid-March, 2018, MCWRA will increase the rate at which it releases water from Lake Nacimiento from the current 60 cubic feet per second (cfs) (38,776,320 gallons per day) to 295 cfs (190,650,240 gallons per day). In mid-April, the rate of release will have increased to 400 cfs (258,508,800 gallons per day.) This amount of water will continue to be released until approximately the middle of July, 2018, at which time the rate will be reduced to 180 cfs (116,328,960 gallons per day).

This wholesale taking of water is unprecedented and unacceptable. The elevation of Lake Nacimiento, as of March 2, 2018, was 752.8 mean feet above sea level (msl). This already equates to a lake capacity of only 43 percent. If MCWRA is allowed to release water in the amounts it has indicated it will, and assuming the lake does not get any "significant" rainfall in the next couple of months, the expected affect on lake levels, and consequently on lake activities and water consumption, will be devastating. For example, by Memorial Day, 2018, the lake will be at approximately 725 msl, or 20 percent capacity. There will be no gas available at the Marina, the resort will be forced to layoff personnel, and many docks and most launch ramps around the lake will be unusable.

In addition to recreation, some of the approximately 5000 residents of communities and private homes that surround Lake Nacimiento, as well as businesses, draw water directly from the lake for their own consumption. At critically low lake levels, many of these individuals will be unable to draw water from the lake and will have to rely on ground water wells. Those who will be forced to rely on ground water wells will experience greater costs to extract and treat this water, and will experience reduced water quality.



PETITION to Prohibit the Proposed Water Releases at Lake Nacimiento

MCWRA has a long and disgraceful history of mismanaging water resources. The agency wasted over 190,000 acre-feet of water in 2017 by allowing it to spill into the ocean. It explained this massive release by claiming it was necessary to accommodate a large storm. However, not long ago, the same agency installed the Obermeyer bladders at the Lake Nacimiento spillway, at a tremendous expense, vowing that it would allow them to eliminate the Flood Rule Curve by giving them more control during flood conditions. (With the Obermeyer bladders down, MCWRA can, if necessary, release over 105,000 cfs or 67,858,560,000 gallons per day.) Yet even with the Obermeyer bladders in place, the agency still wasted all that water.

While we recognize the Salinas Valley farmers need water, and they are entitled to their fair share, we abhor the way MCWRA has mismanaged this precious resource. MCWRA is obligated to manage the water it controls for the benefit of all of the citizens of California. MCWRA's license from the State Water Board enumerates the various uses for the water, which are ". . . for irrigation, domestic, municipal, industrial, and recreational uses." The "recreation" component is just as prominent as any of the other stated uses. There is not an allotted percentage among them -- they all have equal weight. Yet it is always, and only, the recreational use of this lake that is adversely affected by the release of water.

Please consider signing this petition. It will be presented to the California State Water Board, Monterey County Board of Supervisors, the Monterey County Water Resources Agency, and the San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors.