



**Trinity Lake
Revitalization Alliance**
North Trinity Lake, California

June 21, 2010

Representative Wally Herger
410 Hemsted Drive, Suite 115
Redding, CA 96002

Via Personal delivery, Email, Fax
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RE: Improving recreational access on Trinity Reservoir

Dear Representative Herger:

On June 9, the Trinity Lake Revitalization Alliance (TLRA) made a presentation to the Trinity River Restoration Adaptive Management Working Group advisory committee (TAMWG) asking them to request that the Trinity River Restoration (TRRP) Management Council (TMC) determine TRRP's and the US Bureau of Reclamation's responsibility to promote and improve recreational access to Trinity Reservoir and authorize funding for the resulting recreation improvement projects. [*Please see the enclosed copy of our June 9, 2010 TAMWG presentation.*]

We are asking you to support our efforts and to encourage the US Bureau of Reclamation, as owner of Trinity Reservoir and the TRRP lead agency, to honor the recreation mitigations identified in the Trinity River Main Stem Fishery Restoration's Environmental Impact Study (EIS/EIR). A CEQA for the river restoration program was never certified.

The TRRP EIS/EIR, which was adopted by the signing of the 2000 TRRP Record of Decision, acknowledges that recreation on Trinity Lake would be impacted by the resulting lower lake levels and spells out three recreation mitigations:

"Mitigation. Implementation of the following mitigation measures would reduce Trinity and Shasta Reservoir water elevation-reacted impacts to less than significant levels.

- All affected boat ramps should be extended a sufficient distance to accommodate the new water elevations.
- Marina owners should be compensated for costs associated with moving their facilities or constructing new facilities as a result of the new water elevations.
- Campground facilities should be modified or funding provided to accommodate the new water elevations."

Further, US Reclamation, by directive of the *Federal Water Project Recreation Act of 1965* (Pub. L. 89-72) and the USBR's *Recreation Management Policy*, has "a Federal responsibility to provide opportunities for public recreation at Federal water projects."

At the June 9 TAMWG meeting, the sixteen stakeholder members voted unanimously to ask the TRRP TMC to determine TRRP's and Reclamation's legal obligation to mitigate recreation impacts due to the negative TRRP effect on lake levels.

Our request and an overview of the TAMWG meeting is summarized in a front page article in the June 16 edition of the Trinity Journal.

On June 16, TAMWG presented our request to TMC at the quarterly TMC meeting in Weaverville. Our request was well received by the TMC member agencies. Brian Person, area manager of Reclamation's Northern California Area Office and TMC chairman, assured TAMWG chairman Arnold Whitridge that Reclamation would investigate and have a response before the next meeting in September.

The Trinity Lake Revitalization Alliance is a community action, non-profit corporation representing residents, property owners, and business on and around Trinity Reservoir. TLRA's mission is the restoration of the economy and life style of the north Trinity Lake area. Key to this restoration is improving recreational access on Trinity Lake.

Trinity Lake is experiencing lower than expected seasonal lake levels due to the mandated Record of Decision early spring water releases for fishery restoration, increasing demand for water by San Joaquin Valley water users, increasing need for state power generation, and cyclical droughts with inadequate management policy for reservoir recovery.

Trinity Lake is the third largest reservoir in California and vastly underserves the public's demand for recreation. Most of Trinity Lake's boat launching ramps and marinas were closed the entire summer seasons of 2008 and 2009 due to low water levels. June 2010 was the first time that Trinity Center and Cedar Stock ramps became usable again. The KOA marina has been and remains unusable since August 2008.

Reclamation has a MOU with the US Forest Service to manage Trinity Reservoir. The USFS manages the land adjacent to the reservoir as a National Recreation Area. USFS policies over the last two decades have restricted or reduced recreational access to the lake. The USFS has become uncooperative as marina owners try to improve their facilities.

Recreational access can be easily improved by extending the launch ramps, dredging and moving dirt that impedes ramp and marina usage, removing USFS policy and personnel roadblocks to recreation improvements, and building new recreation opportunities on the lake.

With the USFS decision to end logging on public land, our forest communities are left with tourism as their only primary source of revenue. The inability of visitors to get to the lake water for boating and fishing or mooring their boats extensively damages the local economy. The last year-round restaurant in the area closed permanently in November 2009 and the Trinity Center market is near foreclosure due to the decline in tourism.

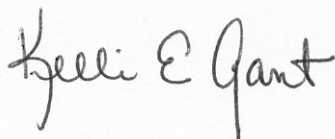
We are not asking for the TRRP or Reclamation to give up any of their legal water usage. We simply want access to the water and mooring capacity during the tourist season. We have identified Trinity Center, Cedar Stock, KOA Marina, and Trinity Alps Marina as priority sites for improvements.

A long-term and more permanent solution to solve Trinity Lake recreation deficiencies is to have Reclamation help us develop a legislative Recreation Plan for Trinity Reservoir that spells out and defines funding for a much larger recreation improvement plan. Lake Berryessa had such a plan developed in 1974.

Again, we ask you and your office to encourage US Reclamation to honor the recreation mitigations identified in the Trinity River Main Stem Fishery Restoration's Environmental Impact Study (EIS/EIR) and to support of our efforts to make Trinity Lake a quality recreation destination again.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important issue for Trinity County residents.

Sincerely,



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