




BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
AGENDA LETTER

Agenda Number:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors  
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101  
(805) 568-2240

**Department Name:** Parks Department  
**Department No.:** 052  
**For Agenda Of:** August 9, 2011  
**Placement:** Department  
**Estimated Tme:**  
**Continued Item:** No  
**If Yes, date from:**  
**Vote Required:** Majority

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors  
**FROM:** Department Brian Roney, Interim Parks Director, 568-2461   
Director(s)  
Contact Info: Sherman Hansen, Mid County Operations Manager, 688-5076  
**SUBJECT: Bureau of Reclamation Management Agreement**

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**County Counsel Concurrence**

As to form: Yes

**Auditor-Controller Concurrence**

As to form: Yes

**Other Concurrence:** Real Property

As to form: Yes

**Recommended Actions:**

That the Board of Supervisors:

- A. Authorize the Chair to execute the attached Management Agreement with the United States Bureau of Reclamation authorizing the Parks Department to operate and maintain Cachuma Lake Recreation Area for a period of twenty-five (25) years; and
- B. Find that the proposed action is for the operation, leasing or licensing of existing public structures, facilities, mechanical equipment or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of use beyond that which presently exists, further find that the proposed action is therefore exempt from CEQA pursuant to 14 CCR 15301, and approve the filing of a Notice of Exemption on that basis.

**Summary Text:**

The County has operated and maintained Cachuma Lake since 1958 under a Master Lease Agreement with the United States Bureau of Reclamation. This agreement expired on January 12, 2003 and has been extended five times with a temporary agreement with the most recent extension expiring on January 12, 2012. This Management Agreement allows the County to continue to operate and maintain Cachuma Lake as a County park for a period of twenty-five (25) years.

**Background:**

The United States Bureau of Reclamation established Cachuma Lake with the construction of Bradbury Dam in 1953 and opened the park when the lake filled in 1958. The water delivered by this facility serves the Santa Barbara area through four local water agencies overseen by the Cachuma Operation & Maintenance Board. The County has developed the park into one of the premier recreational

opportunities in southern California offering overnight camping, day use, boating, fishing, hiking and nature cruises.

The facility receives over 750,000 visitors every year and provides a variety of services from outside concession operations such as boat rental, gasoline sales, general store and food service. The Parks Department has been working with the Bureau of Reclamation and successfully completed negotiations on the agreement in July of this year. The new agreement authorizes the County to continue the operation and maintenance of the facility with no changes from the current day to day operations. While the lease term was shorter than the original agreement, the Parks Department is satisfied that this agreement remains to be in the best interest of the County.

The new agreement includes language now required by the Bureau related to our concessionaires and also requires reports to be submitted related to boating capacity, recycling and integrated pest management plan. The operations portion of the new agreement is identical to the previous long term agreement with the exception of a Bureau requirement to shorten the term from fifty years to twenty-five years.

**Performance Measure:**

Remain responsive to the needs of park users by achieving a response of “yes” to the following question on 90% of 350 annual customer satisfaction surveys returned: “Did the quality of your experience in the park meet your expectations?”

**Special Instructions:**

Please return signed management agreement to Jessica Opland. We will be sending to the State for their signature, then returning it to you.

Please send minute order Attn: Jessica Opland.

**Attachments:**

Attachment A – Bureau of Reclamation Management Agreement

Attachment B – Notice of Exemption

**Authored by:**

Brian Roney, Interim Parks Director

**cc:**

Sherman Hansen

Mike Ledbetter

Ronn Carlentine