




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: Third District Office
Department No: 011
For Agenda Of: January 20, 2015
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Time: N/A
Continued Item: No
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Third District Supervisor Doreen Farr 
Contact Info: Chris Henson, Chief of Staff, 568-2197

SUBJECT: Third District Update Re County Trout Stocking Program at Lake Cachuma

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence:

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: No

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- 1) Receive and file correspondence between the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), Santa Barbara County staff, and the Third District office.
- 2) Find that the proposed actions do not constitute a "Project" within the meaning of the California Environmental Quality Act, pursuant to 14 CCR 15378(b)(2), as they consist of general policy and procedure making.

Summary Text:

This item is before the Board to keep you apprised of the correspondence and developments between interested parties related to the County's trout stocking program at Lake Cachuma. The Third District office is committed to continuing to work closely with California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) and County staff to find a balanced solution which meets the recreational and biological interests of local stakeholders.

Background:

In March 2014 the County received notification from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's (CDFW) South Coast Region that the County's Lake Cachuma Trout Stocking program is in violation of the State's regulations on the stocking of aquaculture-produced fish, and that stocking activities at Lake Cachuma must cease immediately (Attachment A). The letter noted that in order to proceed with

stocking rainbow trout at Lake Cachuma, the County would need to obtain a Private Stocking Permit from the Department, preceded by a Pre-Stocking Evaluation (PSE).

Since the initial aforementioned letter from the CDFW, there has been a series of correspondence between the Third District office and the CDFW (Attachment B, Attachment C and Attachment D). The Third District office has repeatedly emphasized the importance of recreational fishing at Lake Cachuma as a key, local economic driver, the uniqueness of Lake Cachuma as the only fresh water fishing in the County, the low ecological risk of this trout stocking program, and the length of time in which this benign planting program has been in existence (over thirty years) and failed to cause any significant impacts to native steelhead downstream of the dam.

CDFW has since provided clarification on the various steps involved to complete a PSE, which will identify potential impacts to native species that may result from stocking, as well as indicated CDFW's desire to work collaboratively with the County of Santa Barbara on mitigation measure to facilitate the resumption of stocking in Lake Cachuma. The CDFW staff have indicated they expect completion of the PSE by the end of January 2015, at which point the Third District office will initiate a meeting to discuss next steps.

In summary, the Third District office is dedicated to representing the interests of local stakeholders in discussions with CDFW and recognizes the critical importance of the recreational opportunities the County's stocking activities provide. It is the intention of the Third District office to resolve this issue before the upcoming Trout Derby fundraiser this spring, which provides significant operational revenue for the Neal Taylor Nature Center, an organization dedicated to the protection of Cachuma Lake.

Attachments:

- Attachment A: CDFW Notification of Violation, March 2014
- Attachment B: Third District Response Letter, November 2014
- Attachment C: CDFW Response Letter, December 2014
- Attachment D: Third District Response Letter, January 2015

Authored by:

Third District Supervisor Doreen Farr

CC:

Mona Miyasato, CEO
Renee Bahl, Interim Community Services Director
Paddy Langlands, Deputy Parks Director