

**SANTA BARBARA COUNTY  
BOARD AGENDA LETTER**



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

**Agenda Number:**  
**Prepared on:** 11/12/02  
**Department Name:** Parks  
**Department No.:** 052  
**Agenda Date:** 11/26/2002  
**Placement:** Administrative  
**Estimate Time:**  
**Continued Item:** NO  
**If Yes, date from:**

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Terri Maus, Director of Parks

**STAFF CONTACT:** Terri Maus, Director of Parks  
568-2461

**SUBJECT:** Management of Lake Cachuma Recreation Area Two-Year Lease Extension – Third Supervisorial District

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**Recommendation(s):**

That the Board of Supervisors:

- A. Approve extension to contract No. 14-06-200-600, in substantially the form attached, between the County of Santa Barbara and the United States Department of the Interior Board of Reclamation to continue to administer the Lake Cachuma Recreation Area for the period of January 12, 2003 to January 12, 2005.
- B. Authorize the Chair to execute the final lease extension document.

**Alignment with Board Strategic Plan:**

The recommendation is primarily aligned with Goal No 1: An Efficient Government Able to Respond Effectively to the Needs of the Community and Goal No 5. A High Quality Life for all Residents.

**Executive Summary and Discussion:**

The County currently provides an array of recreation amenities including but not limited to fishing, camping (tent, RV and yurt), boating and nature cruises to approximately 700,000 visitors each year at Lake Cachuma. The County's fifty-year lease with the Bureau of Reclamation to manage the Lake Cachuma Recreation Area is however set to expire in January of 2003. In order to prepare for renewal, general negotiations for a new long-term lease have commenced with the Bureau. There are however several key issues, as well as new developments, which impact the pursuit of a new long-term, twenty-five year, lease at this time. These include but are not solely limited to the recent introduction of HR 5460(Calvert), proposed

legislation allowing for private entities, rather than only public bodies, to provide for management of federal lands, as well as the potential surcharge of the lake to accommodate the Bureau of Reclamation's requirement to provide for the steel head trout habitat needs. The environmental study for the potential surcharge is in preparation and is scheduled for release for public comment in February 2003. As of the preparation of this report HR 5460 remains with the House Resources Committee.

In addition to the issues indicated above, two key documents, the Resource Management Plan (RMP) and the Bureau's Policies for Concessionaires must be completed by the Bureau and reviewed by various agencies, including the County, prior to the completion of long-term lease negotiations. The Bureau has recently indicated that the RMP will be released for public comment in January 2003, however it does not anticipate final approval until August/September 2003. In addition the Bureau has been working to develop new directives regarding the use of concessionaires on federal lands that will establish minimum standards for all new modified or renewed non-Federal concession contracts. Items that are specifically set for examination are exclusive use, requirements to bid and provisions for on site housing. These items will potentially impact existing operational procedures at Lake Cachuma.

Given the uncertainty of significant issues, i.e. outcome of amendments to HR 5460, timing and total impact of surcharge and incomplete guiding documents for the long term lease, the Bureau has recommended a short term, two-year, lease extension. This extension will ensure that recreational services currently provided at Lake Cachuma continue uninterrupted and that all long term critical issues are sufficiently analyzed and addressed. It is therefore recommended that the Board of Supervisors approve a two-year lease extension to Contract 14-06-200-600 in which all existing terms and conditions remain in effect.

**Mandates and Service Levels:**

There are no mandates or change in service levels with this extension.

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

There are no fiscal and facility impacts with the lease extension. County staff and the Bureau will continue to work over the course of the lease extension on a new long-term lease agreement.

**Special Instructions:**

A draft letter granting extension from the Federal Bureau of Reclamation is attached. Original will be circulated to appropriate parties for signature and filing.

**Concurrence:**

County Counsel