

TUOLUMNE COUNTY

Business Council

P.O. Box 3718
Sonora, CA 95370

June 19, 2012

Mr. Tom Howard, Deputy Director
State Water Resources Control Board
P.O. Box 100
Sacramento, CA 95812-0100
Email jparks@waterboards.ca.gov

Dear Mr. Howard;

The Tuolumne County Business Council (TCBC) is very concerned with the availability of adequate water in Tuolumne County for Tuolumne Utility District (TUD) to provide to existing users this year. Tuolumne Utilities District provides the county with potable drinking water and raw water for agricultural irrigation and production. With the lack of rain this year it is critical that TUD have an adequate supply and reserve source(s) of water.

During the FERC relicensing for PG&E's South Fork Stanislaus operations, the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) set a lake elevation condition in the 401 Water Quality Permit for Pinecrest Lake. The SWRCB permit condition stipulates that the surface water elevation not go below 5,608 feet, above sea level, between Memorial Day and Labor Day. While this condition may seem to support recreation and tourism the end result for our Tuolumne County economy will be very detrimental. PG&E and TUD have requested that the SWRCB approve the one year requests for variance from 5608 to 5606 through Labor Day to meet existing residential and agricultural customers' needs.

Tuolumne County is a rural area with many existing economic challenges. It is critical that we are able to meet our water needs for residential, commercial and agriculture. Recreation is a critical to our quality of life and tourism in Tuolumne County and we actively support recreation and tourism but ask that you consider our County's needs for this year and that the lake has operated in the past at the requested elevation. Please approve PG&E and TUD's request for a variance to the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) set lake elevation condition for this year.

Sincerely;

Ronald D. Kopf
Executive Director
Tuolumne County Business Council

CC: Pete Kampa, TUD