



## Pinecrest Lake Resort

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Attn: Jeff Parks  
PO Box 2000  
Sacramento, CA 95812

Submitted via Email: [jparks@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:jparks@waterboards.ca.gov)

Dear Mr. Parks:

Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to comment on the **Pinecrest Lake Level Modification Project Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration**. It is our understanding that this project is not addressing the specific lake levels of Pinecrest Lake, rather to address mitigated actions proposed by PG&E should the 401 certification be modified.

PG&E has proposed three Project Mitigation Measures should the lake levels as previously set forth in the Final 4e section of the FERC license be modified:

**Mitigation Measure 1- Substrate Improvement** Pinecrest Lake Resort finds this measure to be inadequate. A lower lake level would expose a significant amount of stumps and rocks, in order to effectively mitigate this problem their removal would need to be done on an annual basis since the inflow of water moves rocks, stumps and logs consistently. Additionally placing backfill gravel into the lake bed does not enhance the visitor experience or visual esthetics, instead it will make Pinecrest look like a gravel pit. Additionally, this measure does not address the loss of use associated with the East Shore restroom and dock (unusable below 5609') or the limited operations the Pinecrest Lake Marina begins to incur below 5608'.

**Proposed Alternative** : Provide consultation with the United States Forest Service to omit the "two foot drop" from 5617' to 5615' and allow for the additional water to remain in Pinecrest Lake. This will alleviate a large amount of the rocky and stump riddled shore line and provide a better visitor experience while holding the water to be used later. This would allow continued operation at the Pinecrest Lake Marina and would not require movement or additional area to be added to the dock.

**Mitigation Measure 2- Buoy Line Modification** Pinecrest Lake Resort finds this measure to be inadequate and unrealistic. As all are aware Pinecrest Lake has a small surface area, there is very little room to redesign the buoy lines to adjust without jeopardizing the boat traffic at the boat ramp and marina.

**Proposed Alternative** : Provide consultation with the United States Forest Service to omit the "two foot drop" from 5617' to 5615' and allow for the additional water to remain in Pinecrest Lake. By maintaining a higher water level the swimming area and adjacent beach are usable and provide adequate space for recreation users. This will also maintain the historical use of Pinecrest Lake.

**Mitigation Measure 3- Public Awareness** Pinecrest Lake Resort does not object to this measure, however we would hope that the licensee and other interested parties would avoid the use of scare tactics or mechanisms to deter recreation at Pinecrest Lake both prior to and after Labor Day.

The document also lists several environmental factors which could be impacted by PG&E's proposed project. Pinecrest Lake Resort does not suggest revision, except for the following:

**Aesthetics.** This factor is significant, the exposed shoreline would be at least 125ft. We have attached pictures of the shoreline, taken today, April 14, 2014 the lake elevation is 5600.7'. As is visible the visual implications of the low water level and "dry" portions of the marina are significant and should the proposed elevations be approved, would require greater mitigation than proposed.

**Agriculture and Forestry Resources.** The project occurs on National Forest Lands. Lower water levels are significant to user access (East Shore Dock and Restroom, National Recreation Trail, Handicap water access, Boat Hand Launches) All of which are not useable below elevations of 5608'-5610', plus limiting operations at the Pinecrest Lake Marina. These are significant impacts to public land.

**Public Services.** Fire is a major concern in the Pinecrest basin. Posting of fliers and education will not provide fire suppression. The boat is essential to fire suppression and can be used 24 hours a day and can provide additional medical support. While more man power would be beneficial it is important to note that this man power is at minimum 20 minutes away. Having recently experienced the Rim Fire we can all agree how quickly flames can spread in a Forest setting and every effort should be made to prevent longer response times. There are no access roads to the 48 cabins on Pinecrest Lake, thus efforts made by means other than the boat would be done by foot or air. For every day that the boat is out of the water creates greater potential for fire, medical and safety issues in the area.

Additionally, the Pinecrest Lake Level Modification Project has yet to address Economic and/or Social issues associated with a lower lake level at Pinecrest. Should this project move forward those items should be studied and appropriate mitigations be proposed. Recreation at Pinecrest Lake is a valuable economic contributor to Tuolumne County and the proposed mitigations do not enhance or improve the experience. Recreation provides substantial income to the county, compared to that of a residential garden. We would encourage the State Water Resource Control Board to look at the many factors that went into preparing the Final 4e Conditions with respect to Lake Level and adjacent improvements.

Thank you once again for your consideration. I look forward to working with you in the future.

Best Regards,

*/s/ Laurie Cashman by electronic signature*

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