

PRESS ADVISORY

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Board Clears Way for Lake Gregory Dredging Program

SAN BERNARDINO—June 24, 2014—The Board of Supervisors approved an environmental document on Tuesday to clear the way for a sediment management program at Lake Gregory.

“Lake Gregory must be properly maintained to preserve and enhance its value to the community and the many visitors who recreate there,” San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors Chair Janice Rutherford said. “This action by the Board cuts through some red tape and sets the stage for the ongoing removal and control of dirt that washes into the lake.”

The Board of Supervisors unanimously approved a mitigated negative declaration for the sediment management project in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act. The document details how the project will not have any significant effect on the environment and eliminates the need for a costly environmental impact report.

The project entails removing accumulated sediments from the perimeter of Lake Gregory, constructing two new debris/sediment basins, improving one existing debris/sediment basin, reconstructing and enhancing the Houston Creek South channel, and conducting ongoing sediment management, including the periodic removal of sediment in and around the lake. Work on removing sediment from the south swim beach is expected to begin this fall. The County has issued a request for proposals to design improvements for the lake’s sediment basins. Work on that phase of the project is expected to commence in fall 2015.

Multiple agencies reviewed the mitigated negative declaration, including the Army Corps of Engineers, Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board, South Coast Air Quality Management District, Caltrans and the San Bernardino County Department of Public Works. Mitigation measures based on the agencies’ comments were incorporated into the project.

Sediment removed from Lake Gregory is being stored at Thousand Pines Christian Camp and Conference Center in Crestline. It will be used for a separate project to repair the lake’s earthen dam. Thousand Pines is storing the dirt for free.

The dam repair project is expected to begin in late fall 2015; however, the commencement of the project is contingent on approval by the California Department of Safety of Dams and weather factors.

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