

PRESS ADVISORY

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Supervisor Rutherford Forming Lake Gregory Improvement Committee

CRESTLINE – San Bernardino County Second District Supervisor Janice Rutherford invites residents of the Crest Forest communities to apply for an ad hoc committee that will investigate and make recommendations on how to improve and better maintain Lake Gregory.

“I have heard from many community members who are frustrated with San Bernardino County’s upkeep of Lake Gregory, and I can appreciate why they are upset,” Rutherford said. “Up until just a few months ago, the County has failed to take action to address State concerns about the seismic safety of the lake’s dam, and it has only made unsatisfactory attempts to remove silt, sand and weeds that have accumulated on the lake bottom.”

The Lake Gregory Improvement Committee will consist of five members who will meet monthly with officials from San Bernardino County Regional Parks, which is charged with maintaining the lake.

Lake Gregory was created in the late 1930s by Redlands citrus grower Arthur Gregory, Sr. The Crest Forest County Water District deeded Lake Gregory to the County of San Bernardino for use as a regional park in November 1977.

In 1986, the California Division of Safety of Dams notified the County about possible seismic deficiencies in the earthen dam that formed Lake Gregory. The County hired consultants to evaluate the dam and address the issues raised by the State. However, no actions were taken to meet the State’s requirements, and in February 2010, State officials ordered the County to remove flash boards from the dam’s spillway because of seismic concerns. The boards helped increase the lake’s water level by trapping runoff from winter rains and snow runoff and were historically kept in place throughout the summer swim season. The County has since submitted a seismic stability study to the State and is awaiting direction from State officials on how to proceed.

In addition, community members have consistently requested that the County dredge Lake Gregory in order to remove silt and sand that has accumulated on the lake bottom and around inlets.

Interested residents should send their resumes and a short statement – 300 words or less – on why they should be selected to serve on the Lake Gregory Improvement Committee before Sept. 16. Applications can be mailed to Supervisor Rutherford’s office at 385 N. Arrowhead Ave., San Bernardino, CA 92415-0110 or sent via e-mail to SupervisorRutherford@sbcounty.gov.

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