



NEWS RELEASE

County Administrative Office

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Lake Gregory beaches to remain viable during state-ordered lowering



The state has ordered the county to temporarily lower the level of Lake Gregory by two to three feet from its current level until a seismic rehabilitation of the lake's dam is complete.

Although lowering the lake will result in a change to the lake's shoreline, the operator of the lake's recreational attractions expects the beaches and swimming areas to continue serving as major attractions, minimizing any effect on tourism and revenue.

Given the 80-year-old earthen dam's need for seismic reinforcement, the state standard of safety calls for the level to be no higher than five feet below the spillway elevation. The lake currently sits at two to three feet below the spillway.

The county plans to have the lake at its new temporary level by January 1.

The seismic rehabilitation of the Lake Gregory dam is scheduled to begin at the end of summer 2017 and take an estimated 18 months to complete. Once the work is done, the county can seek state approval to restore the lake to its normal level.

The county is committed to ensuring that Lake Gregory will remain a viable tourist attraction despite the lower lake level.