

1 percentage from Northern California and states other than California. Visitation data in
2 Attachment B to this testimony reflects the demographic information in further detail.

3 Lake Cachuma is refuge for many traveling from the highly urbanized areas of our state,
4 where open space opportunities have been diminished. While the importance of Lake Cachuma
5 as a regional recreation area must be acknowledged, its role in providing local recreation and
6 educational programs as well as in enhancing the economy of and tourism dollars to the Santa
7 Ynez Valley and beyond must also be considered.

8 The incorporated cities of Solvang and Buellton, the unincorporated townships of Santa
9 Ynez and Los Olives, and other outlying areas utilize the facility as part of swim programs
10 through use of the pool during the summer. Camp Whittier, operated by the Boy Scouts of
11 America, is used year round and is serviced by the Cachuma water and sanitation infrastructure.
12 The education programs provided by hikes as well as eagle and wildlife cruises are fundamental
13 aspects of all elementary and primary education programs in the area. In addition, the impact of
14 over 900,000 visits to Lake Cachuma translates in to tangible tourism dollars to the economic
15 centers mentioned. Lake Cachuma is a year round facility, and these cities and townships greatly
16 rely on the travelers from Lake Cachuma for additional sales tax dollars necessary to ensure a
17 stable economy and provision of services.

18 In addition to concerns regarding recreational opportunities and economic factors, the
19 Cachuma project modifications will impact oak tree resources. Since the County manages the
20 Lake Cachuma recreation area, County standards should be used to analyze project impacts on
21 oak trees. The County Board of Supervisors Native Oak Tree Protection Program, adopted on
22 April 22, 2003, should be used in the analysis of impacts and mitigation measures on lands
23 subject to the Land Management Agreement between the County and the Bureau of
24 Reclamation.

25 The County has executed an MOU for implementation of the Lower Santa Ynez River
26 Fish Management Plan, and is the administrator and chair of the Tri-County F.I.S.H. Team,
27 whose mission is to improve salmonid habitat conditions and to implement restoration work that
28 promotes long-term recovery of naturally spawned salmonid populations. (See Attachment C.)

1 Lake Cachuma is the crown jewel of the County Park System. As such, the Board of
2 Supervisors has designated Lake Cachuma as a key priority for legislative advocacy. By doing
3 so, we have further intensified our ongoing search for funds at all levels of government to ensure
4 that we diligently and proactively address the potential for surcharge now before us. While we
5 have consistently worked to identify funding strategies, address critical issues and develop
6 workable strategies to address surcharge, we are at this date unable to finance the relocation of
7 facilities required by a proposed 3-foot surcharge of the lake. While we do not agree that the
8 County is solely responsible for funding the \$12 million of infrastructure required by this
9 optimum level of surcharge, we believe it is to the benefit of all within our service area to
10 continue to provide for recreation services without disruption. The ripple effect of a reduction to
11 recreation service has far more effect than that referenced within the many studies conducted.
12 County Departmental operations, the economy of the Valley, and the most basic recreation and
13 educational services would be greatly impacted if the both critical and non-critical facilities at
14 the lake are inundated by the proposed surcharge before suitable relocation.

15 Witnesses from the County are here to further address the three critical policy issues and
16 explain how we believe, by working together with other interested agencies, the County can
17 continue to be exceptional stewards of this public trust resource. They will explain in greater
18 detail the County's proposed phased surcharge alternative, a feasible option that allows the
19 County to continue to provide its residents and visitors the quality and level of service that is
20 expected, desired and deserved.

21
22 Attachments:

23 Regional Visitation Map

24 2003 Bureau of Reclamation Letter to County

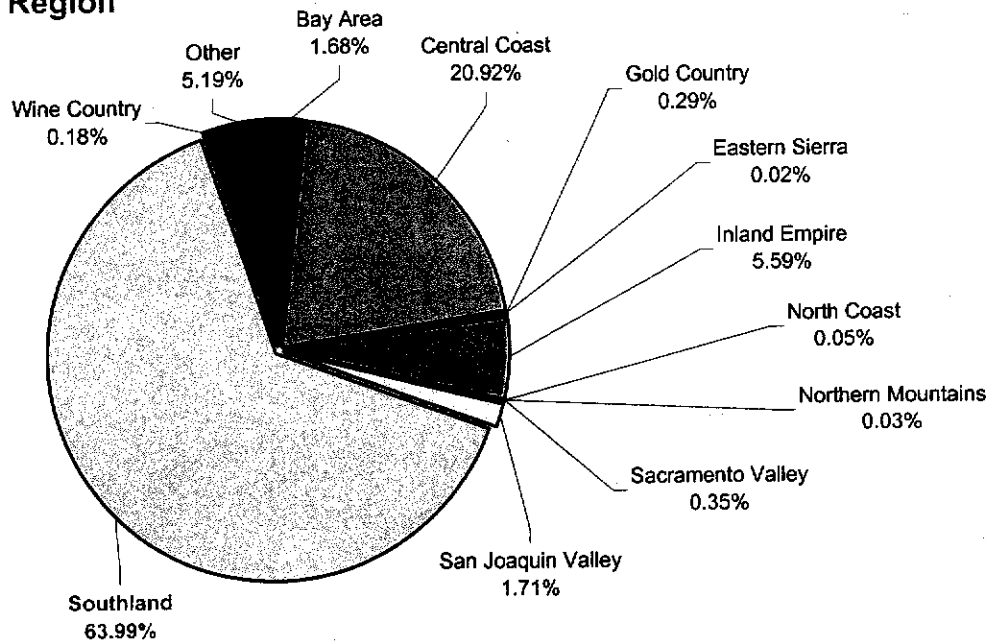
25 Board Resolution
26
27

Cachuma Lake Recreation Area

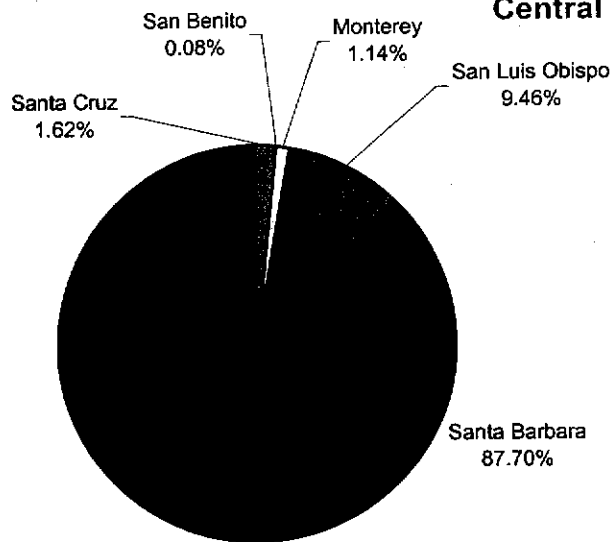
Estimated Total Visitation for 2002: **861,556**

Data is from a pool of approximately 32,647 visitors (4% of total visitation)

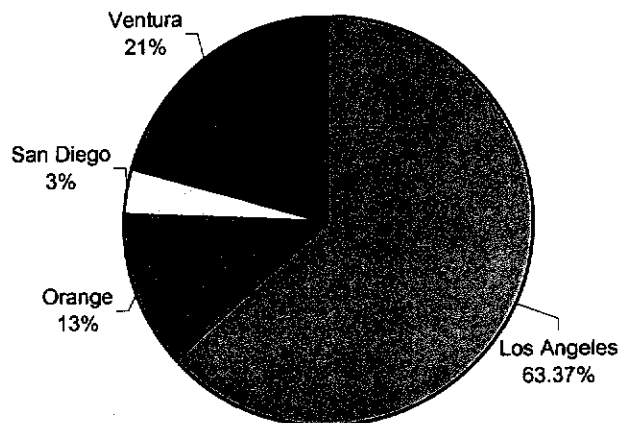
By Region



Central Coast



Southland Counties





United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
South-Central California Area Office
1243 N Street
Fresno, California 93721-1813

IN REPLY REFER TO:

SCC-450
LND-6.00

NOV 15 2002

Ms. Terri Maus-Nisich
Director of Parks
County of Santa Barbara
610 Mission Canyon Road
Santa Barbara, California 93105

Subject: Extension of the Period of Performance under Contract No. 14-06-200-600

Dear Ms. Maus-Nisich:

Santa Barbara County has expressed an interest in obtaining an interim extension of the existing Land Management Agreement (LMA). In order to accommodate the completion of the Resource Management Plan and the subsequent negotiation of a new LMA for the Federal lands around Lake Cachuma, the Bureau of Reclamation has determined that it is in the best interest of the United States to extend the Period of Performance of the existing agreement (Contract No. 14-06-200-600) for a period of two years.

Therefore, pursuant to Section 3 of the subject contract, Reclamation is extending the termination date of the subject contract from January 12, 2003, to January 12, 2005. However, if as anticipated a new long-term management agreement is completed prior to that date, Contract No. 14-06-200-600 will terminate on the date of execution of the new agreement.

The County may extend existing Concessions Agreements on a year-to-year basis not to exceed two years ending January 12, 2005. It is expected that the new long-term LMA will allow an additional extension of up to six months from its date of execution, if necessary, in order to allow for a competitive selection of Concessionaires and an orderly transition to new Concessions Agreements.

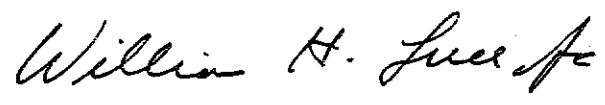
All other terms and conditions of Contract No. 14-06-200-600 shall remain in full force and effect during this interim period.

Reclamation recognizes the importance of the recreational resources at Lake Cachuma to the recreating public and the economy of Santa Barbara County (SBC). While Reclamation recognizes that our views differ on the cost allocation for recreational facility improvements, Reclamation will continue to work with SBC to support their efforts to secure funding to improve and update all facilities at Lake Cachuma, including the drinking water and wastewater treatment plants.

Reclamation congratulates SBC on the completion of 50 years of successful operation at Lake Cachuma providing nationally recognized recreational opportunities for the people of the State of California and the entire Nation. Reclamation looks forward to working with the County to ensure the availability of these recreational opportunities well into the future.

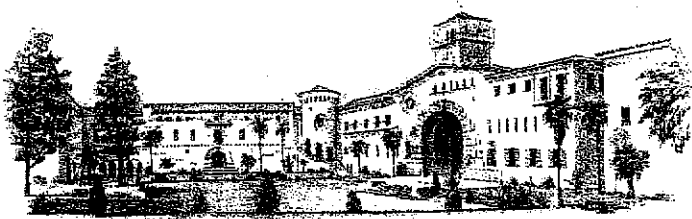
If you have any questions regarding this matter, please feel free to contact Bob Epperson, Land Use/Resource Plan Specialist, at 559-487-5408 or for the hearing impaired at 559-487-5933.

Sincerely,



William H. Luce, Jr.
Area Manager
South-Central California Area Office

cc: Robert Wignot
Cachuma Operation & Maintenance Board
3301 Laurel Canyon Road
Santa Barbara, California 93105



COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA CALIFORNIA

RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING OCTOBER 2003
AS SALMON AND STEELHEAD AWARENESS
MONTH IN THE COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA)

WHEREAS, California salmon and steelhead are an indicator of the quality of life in this state. They provide evidence of our water quality and watershed well-being and provide a substantial benefit to local economies, which rely on tourism and outdoor recreation; and

WHEREAS, Native Americans depended upon salmon and steelhead for sustenance and these fish became the foundation for tribal culture, ritual, communion, and trade; and

WHEREAS, the journey of an anadromous fish depends on sufficient stream flow, clean water, predator prey balance, riparian buffers for shade, and good inland conditions to rebound from warm oceans. Pollution, over fishing, degradation of riparian habitat, and interbreeding threaten the wild salmon and steelhead populations; and

WHEREAS, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) listed steelhead as "endangered" under the Endangered Species Act in the Evolutionarily Significant Unit from the Santa Maria River to Malibu Creek on August 18, 1997 and extended the range to the U.S.-Mexico Border on May 1, 2002.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AND HEREBY ORDERED that the County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors, State of California, proclaims October 2003 as Salmon and Steelhead Awareness Month, to support the County's participation on the Tri-County F.I.S.H. Team with a mission to improve salmonid habitat conditions and to implement restoration work that promotes long-term recovery of naturally-spawned salmonid populations in Santa Barbara, Ventura and San Luis Obispo Counties.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board Supervisors of the County of Santa Barbara, State of California, this 14th day of October, 2003, by unanimous vote of all members present.



ATTEST:

[Signature]
Clerk of the Board

[Signature]
Supervisor - 1st District
[Signature]
Supervisor - 2nd District
[Signature]
Supervisor - 3rd District
[Signature]
Supervisor - 4th District
[Signature]
Supervisor - 5th District