

Board Members:

I wanted to make you aware of a recent operational concern which has been raised related to Lake Hodges.

As background, due to this year's rainfall, the level of Lake Hodges reached a maximum elevation of approximately 304 feet. In anticipation of the impending level restrictions for Hodges Dam and to utilize the local water supply, the City of San Diego requested the Water Authority to move 4,500 acre-feet out of Lake Hodges and deliver it to the City's treatment plants and/or San Vicente Reservoir. The water transfer was performed from March 21st -31st and April 22nd-25th. The water transfer request was made during the nesting season of the Clark's and Western Grebes, which build their nests on partially submerged sticks and branches at the water's surface. As a result of the water transfer, the lake level was lowered by approximately 4-5 feet adversely impacting the nest of the Grebes.

On Wednesday, May 29th, the Water Authority received email inquiries regarding the lake operations and concerns over the water transfer impacting the Grebe nests. In working closely with the City on responding to these concerns, the City of San Diego has issued the attached statement in response to the inquiries.

In regards to Water Authority operations of the Lake Hodges Pumped Storage Facility, we are closely coordinating with SDG&E to ensure that the pump storage operations do not negatively impact the Grebe nesting.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Jim Fisher, Director of Operations and Maintenance.

Thank you.

Sandy

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