Subject: Letter to the California Department of Parks and Recreation Requesting Vehicle Access to Lake Oroville State Recreation Area

Department: Board of Supervisors District 1  
Contact: Brian Ring  
Phone: 530.552.3300  
Meeting Date Requested: April 14, 2020

Department Summary: Information provided in this section will be included on the agenda. Attach explanatory memorandum and other background as necessary.

Supervisor Connelly requested Board consideration of a letter to the California Department of Parks and Recreation requesting vehicle access to Lake Oroville State Recreation Area given the closure of all State parks due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Fiscal Impact:

None.

Personnel Impact:

None.

Action Requested:

Approve letter and authorize the Chair to sign.

Administrative Office Review: Brian Ring, Assistant Chief Administrative Officer

Revised: December 2019
April 14, 2020

Lisa Mangat  
California Department of Parks and Recreation  
P.O. Box 942896  
Sacramento, CA 94296

Re: Vehicle Access to Lake Oroville State Recreation Area

Dear Ms. Mangat,

As you know, vehicle access to all State parks was closed on March 29, 2020. While we understand this measure was taken to help prevent the spread of COVID-19, it is a significant negative impact on many individuals in Butte County.

Due to the vehicle access restriction, people are not being allowed to launch boats or access their houseboat, some boats which people live on. For the past three years due to the Oroville Spillway Crisis, recreation has been very limited at Lake Oroville State Recreation Area. This is now a real source of frustration for the local residents. Residents who own boats and wish to isolate themselves out on the lake are now prohibited from doing so.

We urge you to consider an alternative access plan for Lake Oroville State Recreation Area to allow residents access to boat launches and personal houseboats at no cost.

While safety remains the number one priority during this time, we believe social distancing can still be accomplished while at the same time allowing for access to Lake Oroville.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Steve Lambert, Chair  
Butte County Board of Supervisors

CC: Members, Butte County State Legislative Delegation  
Paul Yoder, Legislative Advocate, SYASL