From: Benjamin Baez
Sent: Wednesday, October 17, 2012 10:37 AM
To: Parks, Jeff@Waterboards
Subject: Pinecrest lake level

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State Water Resources Control Board
Division of Water Rights
Attn Jeffrey Parks,
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jparks@waterboards.ca.gov

Dear Jeffrey Parks,

As you know, Pinecrest Lake was formed in 1914 by flooding beautiful Strawberry Flat Meadow to provide log transportation, drinking water, and power for the communities at lower elevation. The recreation lake users and environmentalists argue that the lake must be maintained at an arbitrary level that does not meet the intended purpose of the lake. I am fully aware that Pinecrest Lake is important to the economy with 600,000 visitors a year, but the economic puzzle is much larger and the flumes and canals that channel water downhill provide water to sustain the forest and inhabitants as well. While water is ultimately delivered to TUD customers and PG&E; the water meanders miles to sustain fish such as trout, insects, and mammals.   Through leakage of the transport system and evaporation, water helps sustain a healthy forest.

Towns that attract even more visitors such as Mi-Wuk Village and Twain Harte have vibrant economies and depend on water being available as intended by Pinecrest Lake. There is little water used for vegetation at the high altitude that TUD serves. Also many of the homes are vacation and water consumption is thus below that of full time resident cities. In short, prior to a lake level target being mandated, water usage was balanced for its intended TUD/PG&E purpose and recreation that benefited the environment and users as well.

There should be no hard water level set,   but instead a target level that should be attempted to be maintained in good faith. However, if water demands require it, the lake should be allowed to be drawn down to whatever is required to meets the needs of TUD and PG&E.

Thanks for your time,

Benjamin Baez