

Casitas Municipal Water District
RECREATION COMMITTEE
Special Meeting Agenda
Brennan/Kaiser
April 28, 2020 – 10:00 a.m.

This meeting will be conducted via teleconference.
To participate or listen to the meeting please call
(888) 788-0099 or (877) 853-5247
Enter Meeting ID 937 0131 5467#

1. Roll Call
2. Public comments.
3. Board/Management comments.
4. Discussion of Lake Casitas Recreation Area and Casitas Water Adventure operations related to the COVID-19 outbreak.
5. Review Monthly Recreation Report for March, 2020.
6. Review of Incidents and Comments.

Right to be heard: Members of the public have a right to address the Board directly on any item of interest to the public which is within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Board. The request to be heard should be made immediately before the Board's consideration of the item. No action shall be taken on any item not appearing on the agenda unless the action is otherwise authorized by subdivision (b) of §54954.2 of the Government Code. If you require special accommodations for attendance at or participation in this meeting, please notify our office 24 hours in advance (805) 649-2251 ext. 113. (Govt. Code Section 65954.1 and 54954.2(a). Please be advised that members of the Board of Directors of Casitas who are not members of this standing committee may attend the committee meeting referred to above only in the capacity of observers, and may not otherwise take part in the meeting. (Govt. Code Sections 54952.2(c)(6)

Lake Casitas Recreation Area (LCRA)
Operations Considerations during the COVID-19 Outbreak
April 28, 2020

Current LCRA Status:

- The park is currently closed to all visitors.
- Existing camping reservations have been cancelled through May 18, 2020 (refunds are being processed).
- New camping reservations have been postponed indefinitely.
- Annual vehicle and vessel decals will be extended proportionate to the closures.

County and State Park Status:

- Local County and State parks remain closed to vehicles with all parking lots being closed.
- Most local County and State parks are open to pedestrian and bicycle traffic.
- COVID-19 public health guidelines are required to be observed by visitors.
- Public bathrooms are closed.
- State 'Stay-At-Home' order is in place indefinitely.
- County 'Stay-At-Home' order is in place until May 15, 2020.

Considerations for the Future Operations of the LCRA:

1. Sanitizing Supplies & Personal Protective Equipment: The Critical Path

In an overall operations sense, public health guidelines require that the LCRA staff need to have access to proper PPE as well as the proper training on its use in order to be in contact with the public as typically expected at the LCRA. This may include the need for Park Rangers and Lifeguards to have access to face shields and gowns when dealing with First Aid responses. Access to adequate quantities of PPE and sanitizing supplies is a significant obstacle at this time.

2. Crowding: The LCRA as a Destination

The LCRA draws guests from all over the Southern California area as well as California and the nation at large. Crowds on Easter Sunday have approached 25,000 people in recent years. Gathering sizes and the subsequent impact on LCRA facilities and staff must be considered. Even local visitors typically visit the park by vehicle.

3. COVID-19 Public Health Order Enforcement: Park Rangers

Casitas Park Rangers are committed to protecting the resources of the Lake Casitas Recreation Area, Lake Casitas' water quality and the open space lands within their jurisdiction in balance with providing a safe and enjoyable recreation experience for the visiting public. It is critical that our employees are protected, safe and healthy so we can ensure an open and successful LCRA. Public contact is unavoidable. Park Rangers also have mandated requirements for responding to first aid calls for service, placing them at significant risk of COVID- 19 exposure.

We have a limited number of Park Rangers. They are our only sworn and trained employees working in a Law Enforcement capacity. The constant and mandated public contact, overlapping shifts and tight working spaces place the Park Rangers at a higher risk of COVID- 19 infection. An infection combined with the possible result of fourteen-day quarantine for those in close contact could result in difficulty staffing this critical department.

Experience with pre-closure issues with park guests displayed that park Rangers will need to play an active role in enforcement of public health guidelines. In addition, when customers are in the park, Park Rangers regularly respond to a variety of service calls including: medical, domestics, fights, and Ordinance violations.

4. Opening to Walk-in's and Cycling: This would require the minimum amount of staffing and contact for guest services and maintenance staff, but things to consider:

- Vehicle traffic and parking areas
- Offsite parking is limited to off road parking along Santa Ana
- CT's are placed throughout the park's roadways, trails, and docks
- Sanitation maintenance for CT's (pump / dump)
- Maintenance trash clean-up of roadways, trails, and docks
- Signage indicating COVID-19 public health orders in force within the park expected to include no gatherings, picnicking, etc.
- Closure of high-touch areas of the park such as playgrounds, docks, launching ramps, and basketball courts.
- No fees are collected to offset costs

5. Opening to Day Use only: This would require all full-time and part-time staff to return for normal operations and would increase public contact to typical levels:

- Day use will be sunrise to sunset or at the discretion of LCRA management
- Handling of transactions with possible 'no-touch' credit transactions in place at the entry gate. Annual decals are no touch entry.
- Tamper proof boat tag system, use social distancing. Proper hand sanitizing.
- Pre-paid system for limiting crowd sizes. Implementation could take a few months.
- Protections for handling cash transactions at the entry gate.
- Restrooms should be limited to chemical toilets – no hand washing is currently provided.
- Keep restrooms and showers closed, this would eliminate constant sanitation and the sale and collection of tokens
- Boat inspections can be handled with social distancing protocols.
- Distribution of maps, and flyers in kiosk
- Enforcing social distance on ramps, docks, and shoreline
- Increase emergency responses for rescue and injuries, one on one contact with additional PPE in place (face shield and gown)
- Launch ramp open with three ramps, self-contained to boaters, no staff contact and we could provide monitor (traffic control)
- Picnic areas and group sites limited to number allowed by public health orders.
- Event Area closed
- Disc golf course awareness and compliance of public health orders, signage posted at their kiosk

- Comets Airfield awareness and compliance of public health orders, signage posted at disc-golf kiosk
- Fish tournaments coordinators should contact LCRA tournament coordinator with COVID-19 plan that complies with public health orders, at least 7 days prior to tournament
- Rowing Club coordinator should contact LCRA coordinator with a plan that complies with State and Local regulations, prior to allowing members on the lake and LCRA

6. Opening to Camping use: This would require all full-time and part-time staff to return for normal operations with a significant increase to public contact. This would encompass everything above for day use opening with the following to consider.

- Limit sites 200 out of 400, they both require the same resources
- 200 sites would provide limited distance between campers
- Opening of showers, an increase in maintenance sanitation to include shower stalls
- Increase of pumping by maintenance due to shower usage
- Increase public contact by Rangers, gate staff, maintenance, and host
- Increase of gate staff contacts, check ins, paper transactions, camping tags, cash, credit cards, tokens, impound equipment (rafts, and kayaks)
- Limit number of vehicles per campsite.
- Limit number of campers per campsite.
- Increase of public contact by Rangers due to calls and complaints of camper and public health order related issues.
- General store, Café, and Bait & Tackle awareness to public health orders.

7. Opening of Casitas Water Adventure:

At this point with current public health orders, it is difficult to see a pathway to providing a safe and healthy environment for the 2020 season.

The use of the CWA attractions, by design would be in conflict with current restrictions within the public health orders for both social distancing and decontamination. People attending the water park congregate in large numbers in a relatively small space. This applies to the play structure where children under the height of 48 inches, play together in a playground atmosphere. In the lazy river large number of adults and children float on inner tubes and free float side by side over a quarter mile route.

In addition water park equipment used by customers (lounges, sitting chairs, inner tubes, life vest, and other items) should be eliminated due to the inability to sanitize them effectively. Allowing customers to bring their own equipment (lounges, sitting chairs, inner tubes, life vest, and other items) into the water park could create a situation of cross contamination with other customers and staff.

8. LCRA Maintenance: would require all staff, full-time, part-time and host with PPE in place and the following:

- For day use, at least 24 hours prior to opening
- For camping, at least 48 to 72 hours prior to opening

- Sanitation protocols established by CDC in effectively cleaning all showers, restrooms, CT's playgrounds, and drinking fountains
- There are several restrooms without sinks, but hand sanitizer pumps are placed in lieu of sinks. A few of the sanitizers have been taken from the restrooms
- Provide portable hand washing stations.
- Consider hiring more part time staff to assist with sanitizing
- Consider using other part time staff (CWA, gate, res and PSO's) to augment maintenance staff.
- More labor intensity to maintain sanitizing protocols.

Conclusion:

Future operations at the LCRA will be highly dependent on the following that is largely not in the control of the District:

1. State public health orders in place at a given time.
2. Operations status of local State parks.
3. Visitor demand level.
4. Access to adequate amounts of sanitizing supplies and PPE.

As a first step, staff will monitor the status of the operations of local State parks in order to ascertain the timing for the future operations of the LCRA.

In the meantime, staff will continue to develop staffing plans, operational procedures, and gathering of sanitizing supplies and PPE.

**CASITAS MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT
LAKE CASITAS RECREATION AREA**

DATE: April 23, 2020
 TO: Recreation Committee
 FROM: Carol Belser, Park Services Manager
 SUBJECT: Recreation Area Monthly Report for March 2020

Visitation Numbers

The following is a comparison of visitations* for March 2020

	March 2020	March 2019	Feb 2020
Visitor Days	22,924	46,012	36,232
Camps	1,853	4,230	2,722
Cars	5,731	11,503	9,058
Boats	169	280	150
Kayaks & Canoes	1	1	2

Visitor Day Totals for Fiscal Year through March 2020	
2018/2019	433,363
2019/2020	404,300
%Change	-6.706

*The formulas for calculating the above attendance figures derived from the daily cash reports are as follows:

Visitor Days = Daily vehicles + 30 minute passes X 3 + café passes + attendance at special events + annual vehicle decals + replacement decals + campsites occupied + extra vehicles X 4

Camps = Campsites occupied + extra vehicles

Cars = Daily vehicles + 30 minute passes X 3 + café passes + attendance at special events + annual vehicle decals + replacement decals + campsites occupied + extra vehicles

Boats = Daily boats + overnight boats + annual decals + replacement decals

Kayaks & Canoes = Daily kayaks and canoes + overnight kayaks and canoes + annual kayaks and canoes

Operations, Boating, Incidents

The United States of America and the State of California are under emergency declarations as well as the Lake Casitas Municipal Water District due to a pandemic, COVID-19. The Lake Casitas Recreation Area responded to protocol (shelter in place, social distancing) by cancelling all upcoming events through March and April, and camping, as of March 22, 2020 with the exception of the Snowbird program which ended April 5. On March 23, no vehicles and vessels were allowed to enter the Recreation area, and on March 31, the Recreation Area closed to walk-in/bike-in day use.

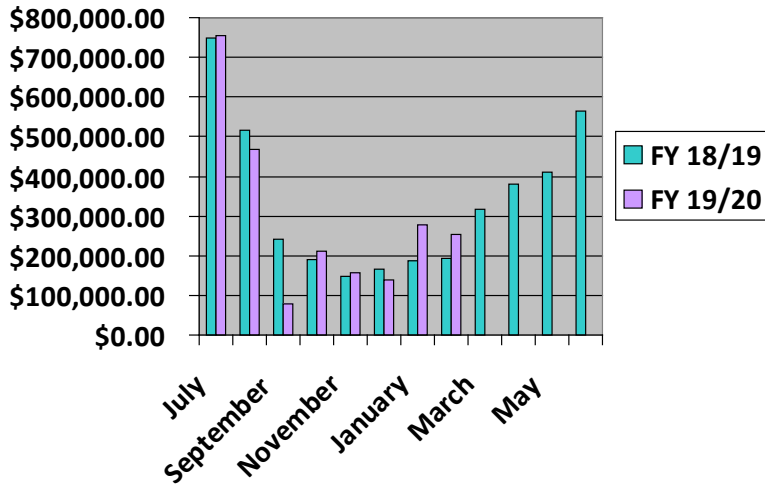


The first part of March was under normal operating protocol, and continued with the Casitas Water Adventure part-time staff continued their hiring process and lifeguard training to secure staff for the 2020 season. A fish plant was received from Jess Ranch Lakes hatchery much to the delight of anglers.

In March 2020 there were 479 recreational vessels tagged for re-entry into Lake Casitas, 7 passed new invasive mussel inspections, and 4 failed the first inspection.

There were 20 patrol observations where park staff made customer contact. Park Rangers responded to 13 calls for service and 9 customer service issues. There were no medical responses. There were 4 disturbances with two needing support from the Ventura County Sheriff's Office. There were no unattended fires, 1 traffic violation with none needing response from the CHP, 6 parking violations, 7 restricted area violations, 1 boating violation, no fishing violations, and 2 leash law violations. There were no body contacts with water.

Revenue Reporting



The 2019/2020 unaudited monthly revenue figures are shown below. Current fiscal year's total figures are reported when made available for the respective months (operations, concessions, Casitas Water Adventure, etc.) per the District's Financial Summary, generated by the Chief Financial Officer.