



September 18, 2019

Phoenix Lake Preservation and Restoration Project Status

Dear TUD Customer and/or Property Owner:

The purpose of this letter is to provide a status update for the Tuolumne Utilities District (TUD) Phoenix Lake Preservation and Restoration Project (PLPRP). The project involves dredging up to 500,000 cubic yards of sediment out of the lake, improving water quality, and restoring storage capacity to the reservoir.

The TUD Board adopted the environmental document for the project in late 2017. In early 2018 permit applications were submitted to the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers (USACOE), California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), and California State Water Resources Control Board. Since that time TUD and its consultant have been working with staff at those agencies to secure the necessary permits. To date, the District has obtained all the required permits with the exception of a Clean Water Act Section 404 Permit to be issued by the USACOE. The District is working closely with staff at the ACOE to secure this permit by the end of the 2019 calendar year.

Starting just after the New Year, the District hopes to put the finishing touches on the design, circulate the project for bids, select a contractor, and finally begin construction. At this time, it is premature to estimate a definite start date; however, we are optimistic that dredging operations will begin in the summer of 2020.

Notifications regarding the construction schedule will be made as soon as additional information becomes available. Public meetings will be scheduled once a Contractor has been selected and construction dates have been determined. Please stay tuned for these notifications.

Construction will be on-going for at least one summer, with activities possibly carrying over into a second summer. During this time residents will notice extremely low water levels and heavy equipment working in the lakebed. A concept of the proposed dredging and grading can be viewed on the TUD website. The District has also developed an email distribution list to provide the public updates on the project status. You may see the conceptual plan and sign up for notifications by visiting the TUD website at <https://tudwater.com/projects/phoenix-lake/>.

The District is grateful for the community's ongoing support and patience. If you have any additional questions related to the project, please contact Gaddiel DeMattei, TUD Associate Engineer, at 532-5536 ext. 519 or gdemattei@tudwater.com