

September 23, 2003

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**APPROVAL OF
REVISED FEES AND CHARGES
FOR CASTAIC LAKE STATE RECREATION AREA
(All Districts – 3 - Vote Matter)**

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD AFTER THE PUBLIC HEARING:

1. Find that this action is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21080(b)(8).
2. Adopt the attached resolution to revise Castaic Lake State Recreation Area fees effective October 1, 2003.
3. Approve the revised fees and charges for Castaic Lake State Recreation Area.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

As requested by your Board on September 9, 2003, on Supervisor Antonovich's motion, we are recommending that, after the public hearing is conducted, increased fees at Castaic Lake State Recreation Area be implemented October 1, 2003. Recently, the County of Los Angeles has experienced financial difficulties partially due to the State budget crisis. As part of the identified curtailments in the County's 2003-04 Proposed Budget, the Department of Parks and Recreation was scheduled to discontinue operation of Castaic Lake State Recreation Area as of June 30, 2003, and return operation to the State. In March 2003, the Department formally notified the State of California that Castaic Lake State Recreation Area would be transferred back to the State, as of June 30, 2003, due to reductions in State funding to the County. Subsequent actions by the Board of Supervisors in budget deliberations authorized the Department to continue operations until August 31, 2003. On September 2, 2003, the Board of Supervisors approved extending the operation of Castaic Lake State

Recreation Area through September 30, 2003, while continuing discussions with the State of California regarding the provision of State funding for Castaic Lake.

As a partial solution to this funding problem, the Department of Parks and Recreation is proposing increases to some fees and charges at Castaic Lake State Recreation Area. The Department is also looking at reducing services to help close the gap between expenditures and revenues. The proposed fees and charges revisions are beneficial on a stop-gap basis for this fiscal year, and are necessary to increase our partial recovery of costs for operating this unique facility, which in many ways differs from the attributes and amenities of other County regional parks. All fees at Castaic Lake State Recreation Area were reviewed to determine whether they were reasonable and cost-effective. Additionally, the citizens of Los Angeles County that frequent Castaic Lake State Recreation Area have expressed concern regarding the survival of the facility and have indicated a willingness to pay higher fees for Los Angeles County to keep it open.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

The proposed recommendations are consistent with the County Strategic Plan Goal 1.1.1 (Service Excellence) and Goal 4 (Fiscal Responsibility).

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

The proposed fee revisions, if implemented October 1, 2003, will result in \$138,000 additional estimated revenue for the remainder of Fiscal Year 2003-04 and \$293,000 in estimated revenue for Fiscal Year 2004-05.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

Fee revisions are recommended for Castaic Lake State Recreation Area as follows:

1. Increase the vehicle entry fee at Castaic Lake State Recreation Area to \$7 from \$6; to be charged October 1 – April 30.
2. Increase the boat launch fee at Castaic Lake State Recreation Area to \$7 from \$6; to be charged October 1 – April 30.
3. Increase the vehicle entry fee at Castaic Lake State Recreation Area to \$8 from \$6; to be charged May 1 – September 30.
4. Increase the boat launch fee at Castaic Lake State Recreation Area to \$8 from \$6; to be charged May 1 – September 30.
5. Increase the annual vehicle entry pass fee at Castaic Lake State Recreation Area to \$120 from \$90; and restrict the annual vehicle entry pass for all other regional parks to exclude Castaic Lake State Recreation Area.

6. Increase the annual boat launch pass fee at Castaic Lake State Recreation Area to \$120 from \$80; and restrict the annual boat launch pass for all other regional parks to exclude Castaic Lake State Recreation Area.

These fees are comparable to similar local facilities. The comparable fees are:

Facility	Vehicle Entry Fee	Boat Launch Fee	Vehicle Annual	Boat Annual
Pyramid Lake	\$7.00	\$7.00	\$85	\$170 – car + trailer
Lake Piru	\$7.50	\$7.50	\$75	\$75

Public hearing notice requirements of Government Code Section 6062(a) have been satisfied and public hearing requirements of Government Code Section 66018 will be satisfied by this action.

In accordance with Section 50402 of the Government Code, these changes may be approved by a resolution of your Board. Additionally, in accordance with Section 50402(b), the Department of Parks and Recreation has requested, from the State Director of Parks and Recreation, approval of those proposed fee increases, which are in excess of 125 percent of those charged by the State Department of Parks and Recreation for the use of similar State facilities. As indicated in the attached resolution, implementation of these fee increases is contingent upon receiving approval from the State Department of Parks and Recreation.

County Counsel has approved the attached resolution as to form.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT/NEGATIVE DECLARATION

The proposed fee changes and increases are for the purpose of (1) meeting operating expenses, including employee wage rates and benefits, or (2) purchasing and leasing supplies, equipment or materials, or (3) meeting financial reserve needs and requirements and, therefore, the proposed actions are exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act pursuant to Section 21080(b)(8) of the Public Resources Code.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

The fee adjustments are not anticipated to have a significant impact on the use of the affected facilities.

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CONCLUSION

It is requested that three (3) conformed copies of this action be returned to the Department of Parks and Recreation for distribution.

Respectfully yours,

Tim Gallagher
Director

TG:SDW:sdw

Attachments

c: Chief Administrative Officer
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
County Counsel

**RESOLUTION TO REVISE FEES AND CHARGES AT
CASTAIC LAKE STATE RECREATION AREA**

WHEREAS, Castaic Lake State Recreation Area is a unique facility within the County, with different attributes and offering amenities, enhanced recreational opportunities and experiences different from other facilities at which similar fees are collected; and

WHEREAS, the County currently operates Castaic Lake State Recreation area under an agreement with the State of California; and

WHEREAS, the County has found it reasonable and necessary to increase the fees at Castaic Lake State Recreation Area to increase partial recovery of the County's operating costs in light of the County's adopted '03-'04 budget which includes the County's decision to terminate the operating agreement with the State of California pursuant to the terms of that agreement due to acts and omissions of the State in relation to the County's finances and occurrences beyond the control of the County; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Government Code Section 50402, the County, through its Director of Parks and Recreation has requested approval, from the State Director of Parks and Recreation, of these fee increases because the facility has received certain funds from state bond act sources, and the increased fees would be in excess of 125 percent of those charged by the State Department of Parks and Recreation for the use of similar State facilities; and

WHEREAS, implementation of these fee increases is contingent upon approval of the fee increases by the State Department of Parks and Recreation; and

WHEREAS, these costs do not exceed the cost of the services provided by the County, and represent only part of the funding shortfall needed for the operation of the facility; and

WHEREAS, the additional funding is in the public interest and welfare; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Government Code Section 50402, the County has the authority to charge for use of park and recreational facilities as provided by resolution of the governing body;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles, State of California as follows:

The Department of Parks and Recreation adjust park and recreation fees and charges as follows:

- Increase the vehicle entry fee at Castaic Lake State Recreation Area to \$7 from \$6; to be charged October 1 – April 30.
- Increase the vehicle entry fee at Castaic Lake State Recreation Area to \$8 from \$6; to be charged May 1 – September 30.
- Increase the boat launch fee at Castaic Lake Recreation Area to \$7 from \$6; to be charged October 1 – April 30.
- Increase the boat launch fee at Castaic Lake Recreation Area to \$8 from \$6; to be charged May 1 – September 30.
- Increase the annual vehicle entry pass fee at Castaic Lake State Recreation Area to \$120 from \$90; and restrict the annual vehicle entry pass for all other regional parks to exclude Castaic Lake State Recreation Area.
- Increase the annual boat launch pass fee at Castaic Lake State Recreation Area to \$120 from \$80; and restrict the annual boat launch pass for all other regional parks to exclude Castaic Lake State Recreation Area.

The foregoing resolution was adopted on the _____ day of _____, 2003, by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles and ex-officio the governing body of all other special assessment and taxing districts, agencies and authorities for which said Board so acts.

VIOLET VARONA-LUKENS, Executive Officer-Clerk
Of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles

By _____
Deputy

APPROVED AS TO FORM:
Lloyd W. Pellman
County Counsel

By _____
Deputy