

**AGENDA**  
**RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**Wednesday, November 3, 2021, at 9:00 A.M.**  
**District Headquarters, Board Room, First Floor**  
**1701 N. Lombard Street, Oxnard, CA 93030**

Meeting attendees should be aware that the meetings of the Committee are, as required by law, open to the public and the District has very limited powers to regulate who attends Committee meetings. Therefore, attendees must exercise their own judgement with respect to protecting themselves from exposure to COVID-19, as the District cannot ensure that all attendees at public meetings will be free from COVID-19.

**OPEN SESSION 9:00 A.M.**

**1. Public Comment**

The public may address the Recreation Committee on any matter not on the agenda within the jurisdiction of the Committee. All comments are subject to a five-minute time limit.

**2. Approval of Minutes**

**Motion**

The Committee will review the Minutes from the September 1, 2021, meeting.

**3. Concessions Update**

**Information Item**

The Committee will receive an oral report on the status of potential concessions operations for the marina in 2022.

**4. Economic Update**

**Information Item**

The Committee will receive an oral report and presentation from staff on the visitation and revenue figures associated with Recreation Area.

**5. Monthly Operational Update**

**Information Item**

The Committee will receive and review the monthly report. Additionally, the Committee will receive an oral report and presentation from staff which includes ongoing tasks and activities from the Lake Piru Recreation Area for the month of October 2021.

**6. Future Agenda Items**

The Committee will suggest issues or topics of discussion they would like added to future agendas.

**ADJOURNMENT**



Recreation Committee Meeting

November 3, 2021

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**Directors:**

Chair Sheldon G. Berger

Mohammed A. Hasan

Edwin T. McFadden III

**Staff:**

Mauricio E. Guardado, Jr.

Clayton Strahan

Josh Perez

Zach Plummer

Eva Ibarra

*The Americans with Disabilities Act provides that no qualified individual with a disability shall be excluded from participation in, or denied the benefits of, the District's services, programs, or activities because of any disability. If you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, or if you require agenda material in an alternative format, please contact the District Office at (805) 525-4431. Notification of at least 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the District to make appropriate arrangements.*

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

  
General Manager Mauricio E. Guardado, Jr.

Posted: (Date) October 29, 2021

(time) 5:45 pm

(attest) Eva Ibarra

At: United Water Conservation District Headquarters, 1701 N. Lombard Street, Oxnard, CA 93030

Posted: (Date) October 29, 2021

(time) 6:00 pm

(attest) Eva Ibarra

At: [www.unitedwater.org](http://www.unitedwater.org)

**MINUTES**  
**RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**Wednesday, September 1, 2021, at 9:00 A.M.**  
**UWCD Headquarters, Board Room**  
**1701 N. Lombard Street, Oxnard, CA 93030**

(In addition to its public Recreation Committee Meeting, the public could also choose to participate virtually using the Webex video conferencing application.)

**Committee Members Present:**

Chair Sheldon G. Berger  
Mohammed A. Hasan

**Directors absent**

Edwin T. McFadden III

**Staff Present:**

Maryam Bral, chief Engineer  
Anthony Emmert, assistant general manager  
Eva Ibarra, administrative assistant  
Joseph Jereb, chief financial officer  
Josh Perez, human resources manager  
Zachary Plummer, IT administrator  
Daryl Smith, controller  
Clayton Strahan, chief park ranger

**Public Present:**

No attendees

**OPEN SESSION 9:00 a.m.**

Chair Berger called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

**Committee Roll Call**

Clerk called the roll. Director Berger and Director Hasan participated in person. Director McFadden was absent.

**1. Public Comment**

Chair Berger asked if there were any public comments, none were offered.

**2. Approval of Minutes**

Motion to approve the Committee Minutes from May 5, 2021, Director Hasan; Second, Director Berger. Two ayes (Hasan, Berger); none opposed, one absent (Director McFadden). Motion carried 2/0/1.



### **3. Concessions Update**

Chief Strahan provided an update on concession activities, and stated staff issued requests for proposals several times over the past nine months and did not receive much interest. He also stated he has not received any interest in the store operation. Staff did, however, receive a proposal for boat services and have been in contact with the vendor. Staff believes the vendor would be a good partner for the District and will be presenting an agreement for the Board's consideration in the coming months, after the General Manager's approval. Chief Strahan also mentioned the vendors overall business model is to buy new boats every year, replacing used vessels with new, higher quality vessels and equipment.

General Manager Mauricio E. Guardado stated Chief Strahan has taken the phase approach suggested by the committee and is not bringing in all services all at once, in hopes of bringing in better quality services and products.

Chair Berger asked what the backup plan is if staff does not receive any interests from concessionaires. Chief Strahan stated he does not feel they have any concerns on the boating side as the vendor for boating services has been eager to work with UWCD, but due to Covid issues, the boat suppliers were not able to supply enough boats needed to fulfill the services for the lake. Chief Strahan also mentioned he does not anticipate the store will be a major issue if a concessionaire is not contracted, as it can also be serviced by United staff. Mr. Guardado mentioned one of the other options would be to staff the store with seasonal workers for the concession stand or it can be converted into a cabin to be rented, as an alternative. Chair Berger asked if fishing licenses were sold at the lake? Mr. Strahan stated no, although that is something being explored. Director Hasan stated public agencies need to remember, not everything needs to be profitable, we need to provide a service, and he stated that he is not in favor of United staffing the concessions, as these services should be contracted out. Chair Berger requested Chief Strahan keep them posted on the progress on concessionaires.

### **4. Economic Update**

The Committee received and reviewed the monthly economic report from Chief Strahan. Chief Strahan presented visitation and revenue figures associated with the Recreation Area via MySites numbers (the online reservation service), comparing 2021 and 2019 revenue (presentation attached).

Chair Berger asked Chief Strahan why camping revenue is down in comparison to day use revenue? Chief Strahan stated he has a 15-year spreadsheet he uses for comparison and noticed an increase in cancellations likely due to heatwaves and mentioned the pandemic has played a factor in the decrease due to the COVID-19 public health restrictions.

Director Hasan asked if the District has mist sprayers in the Recreation Area, as it could be a remedy for hot weather. Chief Strahan said he had never thought of providing spray mist as an amenity but would surely investigate the idea. Director Hasan also asked Chief Strahan if he could guesstimate what the number of visitors may be for the entire year for 2021? Chief Strahan stated he felt it may be in the fifty-five thousand range, but that would be a good guess.

General Manager Mauricio Guardado mentioned another factor that played into the decrease in revenue for the lake was due to the two months that the lake was unable to open to the public due to Covid restrictions.



## **5. Monthly Operational Update**

### **Information Item**

The Committee received and reviewed the monthly operational report. Additionally, the Committee received an oral report and presentation from staff which included ongoing maintenance and improvement tasks and activities at the Lake Piru Recreation Area for the months of May through August 2021 (see slides).

Chair Berger asked Chief Strahan to provide an update on the quagga mussels. Chief Strahan explained the process boaters coming in and leaving the lake must complete to control the spreading of the mussels and explained what is being done in the lake to help control the growth. Chair Berger asked if the population of the mussels is being monitored? Chief Strahan stated yes, the District has Environmental Scientists come in every two weeks and conduct monitoring on quagga population assessments.

Director Hasan asked how many years forward does the master plan go? Chief Strahan asked Dr. Maryam Bral to respond. Dr. Bral stated it will vary depending on the project. Mr. Guardado said there is not a set number of years, as not all items have been added to the plan to provide a complete timeline, and once that is done, staff can develop a timeline to support the master plan. Director Hasan asked if on October 4, the master plan will then have a timeline available? Dr. Bral stated yes, the draft of the master plan – Phase I would have a timeline by October 4. Chair Berger suggested the master plan be sent out to the Board prior to the meeting for their review to allow them to ask questions before the meeting. Dr. Bral stated she will ensure it goes to the Board prior to the meeting, for their review.

## **6. Proposed New Trail Emanating from the Pothole Trailhead Parking Lot**

### **Information Item**

The Committee received an oral report and presentation from Dr. Maryam Bral on the proposed new hiking trail extending from the Pothole Trailhead parking area.

Chair Berger asked what the distance of the proposed trail will be? Dr. Bral said between two to three miles, per Google Earth.

Director Hasan asked if this is already there, and it's just being improved, or is staff adding to the existing trail? Dr. Bral explained the diagram from the presentation of the trail to Director Hasan, including a statement that staff is hoping to tap into a grant program for the cost of constructing the new trail. Director Hasan mentioned he is concerned about the environmental aspects of the trail and all the things that need to be factored in and would like to hear more on this idea.

Chair Berger suggested that the next time an update on the new trail is provided, he would like to request a side-by-side photo or overlay of the trail. Chief Strahan stated that he can provide that comparison.

## **7. Future Agenda Items**

Chair Berger polled the Committee as to any future agenda items. None were offered.

## **ADJOURNMENT 9:50 A.M.**

Meeting was adjourned by Chair Berger at 9:50 A.M.



I certify that the above is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the UWCD Recreation Committee meeting of September 1, 2021.

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Chair Sheldon G. Berger



# Parks and Recreation Department

## LAKE PIRU RECREATION AREA HIGHLIGHTS AND UPDATES

September 2021

### #4 Economic Update

2021 vs. 2019

#### Day Use plus Camping Revenue and Visitation Comparison

Year	Day Use Revenue	Camping Revenue	Combined Revenue	Persons	Vehicles	Vessels
2021	\$274,111.20	\$389,198.40	\$663,309.60	34,893	18,357	3,778
2019	\$174,665.60	\$420,642.57	\$595,308.17	55,936	20,495	3503

2021 revenue and visitation figures are current through August 17, 2021.

2019 figures are for entire month and were provided by PMC.

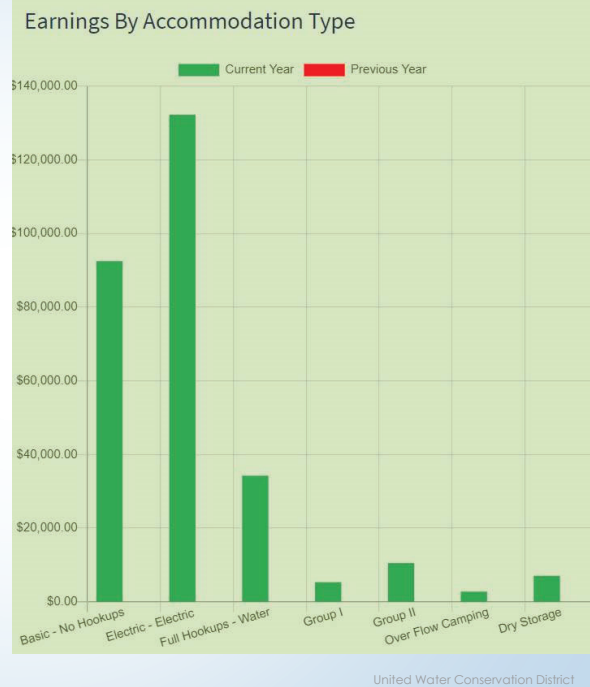
**57% increase** in **Day Use Revenue** between January 1 and August 17 (2021 vs. same period 2019)

**11% increase** in total **revenue** between January 1 and August 17 (2021 vs. same period 2019)

**11% increase** in daily **revenue** collected January to August (2019 vs. 2021 collection period – \$2,611/day 2019 vs. \$2,909/day 2021)

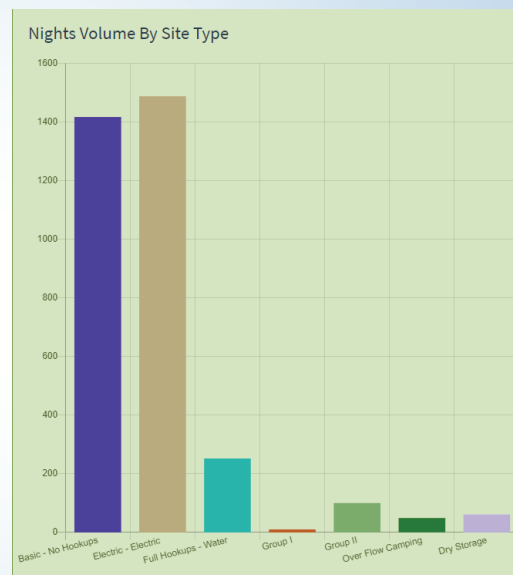
- Electric sites accounted for \$132,644.88 in revenue collected
  - \$12,492.13 in firewood sales
  - \$14,643.27 in ice sales
  - \$12,084.83 in shower sales
  - \$11,689.90 In Wi-Fi sales

## Revenue Breakdown



- 2,454 reservations made between February 19 and August 17, 2021
  - 3,578 of 7,662 visitor nights were for electric sites
  - Electric sites accounted for \$132,264.88 (bill add-ons excluded)
  - Basic sites accounted for \$96,236.55 (bill add-ons excluded)
  - Full hook up sites accounted for \$35,255.04 (bill add-ons excluded)

## Guest Nights





## #5 Operational Update – General



- Irrigation Systems Overhaul & Repair:
  - One main line leak repair
  - Two lateral main line repairs
  - Pressure tested & repaired backflow devices.
  - Installation of an isolation valve and blow off (Long term improvements).
- Day Use irrigation system overhaul-CIP project (\$45,000.00). Completed August 3.

## Operational Update Facilities Maintenance

- Installed 15 site markers in overflow camping.
- Conducted annual fire clearance grading at Lisk Ranch and Pothole Trailhead.
- Partnered with Troop 126 of the Boy Scouts to rebuild & replace information kiosk at park entrance.
- Began mid-season repairs of picnic tables within the park.



# Operational Update

## Travel, Training and Meetings

- Chief Strahan completed FEMA IS 29 PIO Awareness Training.
- All entry Kiosk staff completed Quagga Inspection Training.
- Staff participated in the District's annual FERC law enforcement security consultation for the Santa Felicia Dam.
- Participated in facility inspection at Lake Piru with Insurance Counsel (Dorsey litigation).
- Staff facilitated training with Ventura County Sheriff's and Fire on insertion of rescue personnel from helicopters and boats.
- Chief Strahan participated in an interview with KCLU and NPR for a story related to drought and reservoir levels in Southern California.



United Water Conservation District

# Operational Update

## Marketing, Outreach and Master Planning

- CV Strategies began a Facebook ad for camping July 1 (full report to come).
- Secured a full-page ad in the Santa Clarita Visitors Guide.
- Secured an ad in the Central Coast Tourism Council's Original Road Trip guidebook.
- Chief Strahan participated in an interview with SEPI's Mobile RV-ing podcast reaching nearly half a million RV podcast listeners.
- Staff and CV Strategies began efforts to design a new logo and brochure for Lake Piru.
- Awarded a contract to RRM Design Group, on July 26, 2021, for the Lake Piru Recreation Area's Master Plan, with a completion date of October 4, 2021.

United Water Conservation District

## HERITAGE VALLEY

Scenic Highway 126 through Heritage Valley offers the ultimate escape! Between Ventura and Valencia, discover the historic towns of Santa Paula, Fillmore and Piru, and the Rancho Camulos National Historic Landmark. Enjoy our natural bounty of produce, honey, and wine. Visit unique shops, restaurants and boutique hotels, ride a vintage railway or hot air balloon, discover outdoor adventures and ExploreLakePiru.com!

Heritagevalley.net | 805/524-7500



### LAKE PIRO

WANDER. EXPLORE. DISCOVER.

RECREATION AREA

#### ROUTES OF OPERATION

7 AM - 10 PM

CONTACT US

Lake Piru Recreation Area  
47000 Canyon Road  
Piru, CA 93444  
(805) 524-7500

map@lakepiru.com  
P: (805) 524-7500  
E: info@lakepiru.com

#### DIRECTIONS

From Interstate 5 on Highway 101, take Santa Highway 126 to Piru and go 8 miles north on Piru Canyon Road.

#### CAMPING FEES

(Peak season April 1 - September 30)

Basic (no hookups) - \$20  
Full Hookup - \$50/night  
Electric Only - \$30/night  
Cave vehicle - \$15/night  
OHV (motorcycle) - \$15/night

(Off season October 1 - March 31)

Basic (no hookups) - \$20  
Full Hookup - \$40/night  
Electric Only - \$20/night  
Cave vehicle - \$15/night

#### WI-FI FEES

All visitors - \$10/day, \$22/week, \$35/month  
Complimentary with full hookup - included

#### RECREATIONS & BOAT FEES

Day Use Fees  
Peak season (April 1 - September 30)  
\$14 per vehicle  
\$10 per person  
Off season (October 1 - March 31)  
\$10 per vehicle  
\$8 per person

#### BOATING FEES

Daily motorized permit - \$5  
Daily non-motorized permit - \$3



## #6 Proposed New Hiking Trail

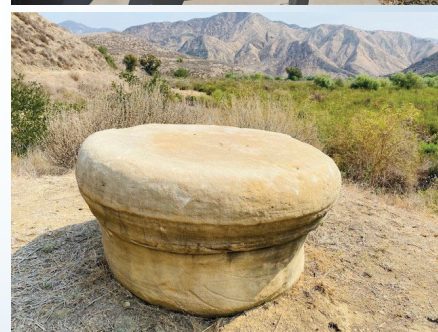


- Staff proposes a new hiking trail emanating from the existing Pothole Trailhead parking area:
  - 2-3 mile hiking trail on the District's Lisk Ranch property directly South of the Pothole Trailhead Parking area.
- Staff is planning to consult with a trail design firm to identify potential trail alignments.
- Develop interpretive signs to provide wilderness, historical and cultural designations
  - This could provide opportunities to collaborate with the Tataviam tribal community and Heritage Valley Historical Society

## Interpretive Features

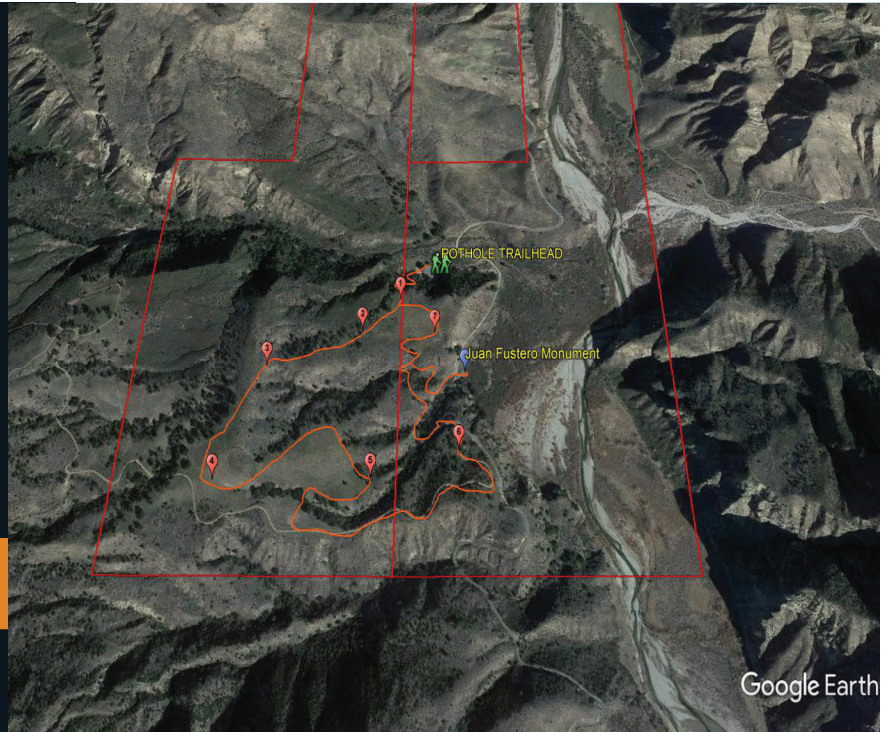
### Trail Signage & Locations

- Staff is proposing to install Interpretive signage at key locations along the proposed trail
- Signage will focus on native cultural resources and historical activity within Piru Canyon
- Recreational features such as benches made of natural features like stone will be constructed at several key locations along the trail
- Information and Directional signage will lead visitors through an experience as they walk, making them feel as if they were visiting a time and place long forgotten



# Draft Trail Alignment & Layout

United Water Conservation District





### **Staff Report**

**To:** UWCD Recreation Committee Members

**Through:** Mauricio E. Guardado, Jr., General Manager

**From:** Clayton W. Strahan, Chief Park Ranger

**Date:** October 20, 2021 (November 3, 2021, meeting)

**Agenda Item:** 5.2 Monthly Park and Recreation Department Report  
**Information item**

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#### **Staff Recommendation:**

The Committee will receive and file this staff report from the Parks and Recreation Department regarding its activities for the month of October 2021 as well as receive the presentation to the Committee supporting this report.

#### **Discussion:**

As the Parks Department concludes October, staff reported that guest traffic has begun to decrease at the Recreation Area. The Parks department welcomed two new work campers to the team and is looking forward to their assistance. Rangers kept busy with regular maintenance challenges associated with the aging infrastructure, as well as monitoring hunters around the Recreation Area to ensure compliance with the law. As the Board is aware, hunting season routinely brings an abundance of challenges associated with trespassing and firearm violations. This season has been no different. During the month of October, staff completed two cleanup operations in the Santa Clara River on District property to reduce environmental impacts of trash in drainage and ensure public safety. These events included participation from more than 20 volunteers, Ventura Police Department, Ventura County Sheriff's Office and the Ventura Chapter of the Sierra Club. Other notable events at the lake included loose cattle from neighboring properties, medical incidents, and a children's fishing event put on by C.A.S.T. (Catch A Special Thrill), children's foundation. Looking forward, staff is working together with O&M personnel to prepare erosion control and drainage management strategies for the winter months and possible rain to come.

Note – this report contains several tasks and incidents that occurred during the month of September after the filing of the previous staff report and are included here to ensure the Board is fully informed of activities at the Recreation Area.

#### **1. Staff Tasks and Activity Highlights**

- **Sept. 22 - Oct. 13:** Staff coordinated repairs to District vehicles and equipment. This effort included significant repair the Lake Work barge for lake operations and an overhaul of the
-



John Deere side by side being used for weed abatement activities in and around the lake.

- **Sept. 25, Oct. 3:** Staff completed two cleanup operations on District property in Ventura and removed nearly 80 cubic yards of trash from the riverbed, which would have flowed into the ocean during the rainy season. This included participation from several partner agencies and 20 volunteers.
  - **Sept. 27, Oct. 5, 6, 12, 13, 17, 18, 19–** Staff conducted significant work associated with the cleanup and organization of the dry storage and shop facilities at the Recreation Area in preparation for the arrival of a new boat rental vendor. The area left in disrepair by former vendor Parks Management Company, included the removal of more than 100 cubic yards of waste materials, debris, and trash.
  - **Sept. 27, Oct. 1, 2, 12, 20:** Staff completed repairs to restroom infrastructure in the Olive Grove campground, this included repairs to three of the parks septic systems.
  - **Sept. 28 – Oct. 24 –** Staff sanded and painted gates throughout the Recreation Area to provide a professional appearance for guests and will begin the painting of street curbs.
  - **Oct. 1, 2, 4, 9:** Staff picked up litter along Piru Canyon Road in and around the Bobcat Cove area and the overlook at the Santa Felicia dam, along Piru Canyon Road.
  - **Oct. 2:** Staff completed repairs to the chlorine pump and related infrastructure at the Lake Piru Water Treatment Plant, as part of routine maintenance efforts associated with providing safe and clean drinking water to park guests.
  - **Oct. 5:** Staff cut and placed a log in an access road near the Potholes trailhead to block unauthorized vehicle access.
  - **Oct. 10-31:** Staff utilized a rented street sweeper and loader to clean the roadways and asphalted areas in and around the Recreation Area. This is being done in an effort to beautify the area and maintain the best appearance.
  - **Oct. 10:** Staff officially decommissioned the lakes designated swimming area for the winter season and removed the floating delineators and signage for the swim beach.
  - **Oct. 14:** Staff performed a major move of the marina and courtesy dock to keep pace with falling lake levels. This effort included moving all 4 of the 1,000-pound anchors and re-setting over 3,000 feet of one inch steel braided cable. The effort included 4 Parks personnel and 2 staff persons from the Santa Felicia Dam.
  - **Oct. 15:** Staff supervised work by Quality Ag to place large boulders around the Pothole Trailhead to prevent unauthorized vehicle access and vandalism which has been occurring.
  - **Oct. 18:** Recreation and O&M Staff worked together to locate, excavate, and repair a leak in the domestic water system of the Olive Grove campground. The system was shut down for approximately six hours.
  - **Oct. 20-25:** Recreation staff began painting delineation marks on the roadway in front of campsites in Olive Grove campground to better provide boundaries for guests. As the board is aware, the current layout limited delineation between campsites. The hope in the hashmarks painted on the road's edge in front of each site will better delineate each site and reduce the number of space conflicts occurring within the park between our guests.
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2. Staff Training/Meetings/Events

- **Weekly throughout October:** Intra-department meetings were held to familiarize staff with operational procedures and developments at the Recreation Area. These meetings included involvement with administrative staff, operations staff, and human resources as needed.
- **Weekly throughout October:** Staff completed training in case law, and law enforcement policies and procedures from District vendor Lexipol.
- **Weekly throughout October:** Staff completed safety training from district vendor Target Solutions.
- **Oct. 4-7:** Chief Strahan attended the annual CALMS (California Lake Mangers Society) conference held virtually this year. Topics included algae management, water quality and drought.
- **Oct. 12:** Staff attended a site visit with RRM design the firm assisting Engineering and Recreation Divisions with efforts associated with the Park Improvement plans that are being developed to update and modernize the recreation area.
- **Oct. 14:** Chief Strahan attended the District's water sustainability summit.
- **October 19:** Staff completed training in the practical application and use of fire extinguishers.
- **October 25:** Staff met with representatives from Skydio, a drone firm, to explore the possibility of developing and implementing a drone program for the Recreation Department. The intent is to procure a drone capable of autonomous flight for responding to emergencies and natural disasters.

3. Revenue and Visitation Recap

2021 Day Use Revenue Recap and Comparison	
2021 Day Use Revenue (Jan. 1 - Oct. 20)	\$348,669.14
2019 Day Use Revenue (Jan. 1 - Oct. 31)	\$254,704.15
Total Revenue Increase/Decrease from Prior Year	\$93,964.99
Annual Increase in %	36.9%
2021 Camping Revenue Recap and Comparison	
2021 Camping Revenue (Feb. 19 - Oct. 20)	\$465,504.06
2019 Camping Revenue (Jan. 1 - Oct. 31)	\$484,576.39
Total Revenue Increase/Decrease from 2019	\$(19,072.33)
Annual Increase in %	(3.9%)
Current and Record Year Comparison (2019 vs. 2021)	
2021 Combined Revenue (Jan. 1 - Oct. 20)	\$814,173.20
2019 Combined Revenue (Jan. 1 - Oct. 31)	\$1,022,356.72

*\*\* Camping Revenue has been impacted by the park closure order due to COVID-19. Camping reservations resumed on February 19, 2021, and in person camping began March 11th.*

*\*\*\* It should be noted that 2019 was one of the highest revenue years in the history of the park. 2021 is on pace to exceed the 2019 day-use numbers and is just slightly below the camping revenue from that year.*

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2021 Total Visitation Figures				
Month	# Nights/Sites	# People	# Vehicles	# Vessels
January	0	2,627	1,196	219
February	0	2,047	1,049	155
March	243	3,473	1,771	393
April	624	5,940	2,653	483
May	732	5,346	3,292	507
June	685	5,581	3,025	730
July	1,007	6,986	3,783	817
August	536	4,425	2,463	796
September	631	4,253	2,826	803
October (1-20)	286	2,251	1,100	282
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,300</b>	<b>41,749</b>	<b>21,510</b>	<b>4,781</b>

#### 4. Incidents/Arrests/Medicals

Rangers noted a marked decrease in calls for service and incidents during the month of October. Several items of note are listed below:

- **October 8:** Staff responded to a medical call in the campground and provided first aid to a guest who had fallen off their electric bicycle and injured their hip. The guest received further care from the Ventura County Fire Department and was transported to the hospital where they were treated for a broken hip.
- **October 8:** Deer hunting season began in the local area, and plenty of hunters made use of the Potholes Trailhead to access the National Forest. Rangers made numerous proactive contacts with hunters to ensure compliance with District ordinances and state law. No violations were initially discovered. However, on October 21 Fish and Game Law Enforcement officers contacted Ranger regarding a potential poaching ring. Staff is now working with local authorities to help with the investigation of poaching that may have occurred on District property.
- **October 11:** Staff were able to locate and reunite a missing dog, which had escaped its owners 8 days before. The dog was found safe and uninjured.

#### 5. Citations/Enforcement Summary

Throughout October, no citations were issued.

However, several warnings were issued for driving off a designated roadway, fishing outside posted hours, and parking in a restricted area.

It should be noted that numerous other enforcement contacts were made for violations of District ordinances. However, as it is the District's goal to use education as a means for compliance in most cases, Park Rangers used these incidents as an opportunity to educate the guests via verbal warning. Citations are typically issued as a last resort when the violation is egregious or voluntary compliance cannot be obtained.

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**6. Grants**

Nothing new to report at this time.