



November 28, 2011

Dear Neighbor,

In the next few days you will receive a ballot from the Sierra Lakes County Water District for approval of an assessment to pay for a new sewer plant to serve the Serene Lakes community. **The Board of Directors of the Serene Lakes Property Owners Association (SLPOA) unanimously asks that you vote Yes on the Sewer Assessment and make sure you quickly return your ballot.**

The Board reached this conclusion after hours of consideration of the ballot proposal. Our decision is based on the following:

- The State of California has demanded that the district provide better processing of the effluent into the Yuba River.
- The current plant cannot be upgraded to meet these new State discharge requirements.
- The Regional Water Quality Control Board has made it very clear that by April, 2014 the district **shall** comply with the new discharge standards.
- The Control Board can impose fines, control property usage or even force a closure of the current sewer plant if the district does not comply.
- A new plant would use modern technology to meet the new state requirements and the new plant will serve our community for many future decades.
- The new sewer capacity will serve the current lots in Serene Lakes and the current lots of the customers of the Donner Summit Public Utility District. If the Royal Gorge properties are developed the owner would need to find sewer capacity in some other manner. Current landowners will not be paying for future development.

Numerous other area organizations are also encouraging a **Yes** vote. Below are excerpts from endorsement letters from the Donner Summit Area Association, Mountain Area Preservation Fund, North Fork of the American River Association, Sierra Watch and the South Yuba River Citizens League.

Yes, the Board is very conscious that \$650-700 per year per lot---assuming a 4.5% USDA loan and exclusive of county fees---will be necessary to amortize the sewer plant costs over thirty years. We wish we did not have to go down this path. But, we also know that we have **no choice and the state mandates must be met by our Water District.** If we do not vote yes now, the state can impose even higher enforcement costs on our community until we do comply. It's either 'pay me now or pay me later.'

If you have any questions or comments on the decision of your Board email us at slpoa2board @slpoa.com or call Ken Hall at his Sacramento home, 916-944-1213.

Thank you for your support. Enjoy the gorgeous winter that is ahead and we too look forward to an early spring next April.

Sincerely,

Your SLPOA Board:

Ken Hall, President; Mike Wasserman, Vice President; Jim Hoelter, Treasurer; Kathy Neuburger, Secretary; Chris Africa; Linda Cashion; Carole Raisbeck; Gene Savoie and Bill Simmons

Donner Summit Area Association

This upgrade will utilize proven technology, meet the challenges of processing sewage at high altitude and improve plant efficiency.

Pat Malberg, President

Mountain Area Preservation Foundation

DSPUD and SLCWD have selected the most environmentally responsible and sustainable actions to solve the current problems.

John Eaton, President

North Fork American River Alliance

The new plant, using proven technology...will be able to solve the problems of the current plant, including the challenges of sewage processing at high altitudes. The technologies can be adapted to respond to new state regulations and the issue of emerging contaminants. This will help ensure that the plant's life is long...and the river is protected in the future.

Jim Ricker, President

Sierra Watch

We compliment the...Sierra Lakes County Water District for their responsible and pro-active response to the current issues.... With the new plant, the two districts will have done their best for the Yuba River, a result of which all Californians can be proud....

Peter Van Zant, Field Director

South Yuba Citizens League

In our opinion, you [Water District] have taken the most environmentally responsible and beneficial approach to the problem---thereby better protecting the river and taxpayers.

Jason Rainey, Executive Director