

(DRAFT) RESOLUTION NO. 2008-787

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
SIERRA LAKES COUNTY WATER DISTRICT CONCERNING THE
POLICY FOR MANAGEMENT OF SERENE LAKES FOR WATER
SUPPLY, WATER QUALITY, AESTHETIC, ECOLOGICAL AND
RECREATIONAL PURPOSES**

BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of Directors of the Sierra Lakes County Water District, Placer County, California, that the District adopt the following policy for the management of Serene Lakes for water supply, water quality, aesthetic, ecological and recreational purposes:

SECTION ONE. Findings.

The Sierra Lakes County Water District (District) Board of Directors finds:

1. Two natural lakes, Lake Serena (the upper lake) and Lake Dulzura (the lower lake) are inundated by Ice Lakes Dam to create a single water body commonly known as Serene Lakes or Ice Lakes. Serene Lakes are the water supply and the principal aesthetic and recreational amenity of the existing Serene Lakes Subdivision and the District's service area.
2. The elevation of the dam spillway crest is 6873.67 feet NGVD 29. The elevation of the culvert connecting the lakes and dam is 6870.3 feet NGVD 29, or 3.37 feet below the spillway crest.
3. The District was created to provide water and sewer service to the District's service area.
4. Serene Lakes are currently used for swimming, non-motorized boating, fishing, wildlife viewing, and similar recreational purposes.
5. The District obtains all of its water supply from Lake Serena pursuant to water right Permit No. 14248 (Application 20601). The District's diversion pipe is located in Lake Serena. The Permit requires the District to operate the dam to bypass all surface water inflow into Serene Lakes between July 1 and September 30. The water surface elevation of Serene Lakes must exceed the culvert elevation of 6870.3 feet in order to assure the District's ability to bypass inflow in accordance with the terms of the Permit.
6. In times of drought, reduced inflow to Serene Lakes, and/or high water diversions from Serene Lakes, the water elevation of the Lakes could drop enough to expose large areas of lake bed and to physically separate Lake Dulzura from Lake Serena. A water surface

elevation of approximately 6870 feet is necessary to maintain a surface water connection between Lake Serena and Lake Dulzura.

7. Since the 1970s, the District has managed its water diversions and dam releases to prevent the elevation of the Lakes from dropping more than three feet below the dam spillway in order to maintain a contiguous surface connection between Lake Dulzura and Lake Serena for water supply and water quality purposes, and to not interfere with the community's recreational rights. The historic minimum water surface elevation was approximately 6870.9 feet, or approximately 2.8 feet below the dam spillway crest.
8. A detailed bathymetric survey of Serene Lakes was conducted in 2007. The survey confirms that expansive areas of the lake bed would be exposed if water elevations were dropped more than three feet below the dam spillway crest.

SECTION TWO. Policy for Management of Serene Lakes Water Surface Elevation for Water Supply, Water Quality, Aesthetic, Ecological, and Recreational Purposes.

The District hereby adopts the following policy:

The District shall manage the water surface elevation of Serene Lakes in consideration of water supply, water quality, recreational, and aesthetic purposes. The District shall strive to not lower lake elevations to levels where the water supply, water quality, aesthetic, ecological and recreational values of Serene Lakes would, in its judgment, be significantly degraded. The District finds that these purposes will be reasonably balanced and not significantly degraded by maintaining a target minimum lake elevation of 6870.67 feet NGVD 29, or three feet below the crest of the dam spillway. The District acknowledges that natural hydrologic variability outside the control of the District may prevent maintenance of this minimum elevation target at all times in some seasons. The District shall consider this minimum elevation target and purposes maintained by the elevation target when acting upon new requests for water service. The District may in the future adjust the minimum lake elevation target as appropriate for the maintenance of water supply, water quality, recreational uses, and aesthetic and ecological values.

SECTION THREE. Inconsistency.

To the extent that the terms and provisions of this Resolution may be inconsistent or in conflict with the terms and conditions of any prior District ordinance, motion, resolution, rule or regulation governing the same subject, the terms of this Resolution will prevail with respect to the subject matter thereof and such inconsistent and conflicting provisions of prior ordinances, motions, resolutions, rule or regulations are hereby repealed.

SECTION FOUR. Severability.

If any provision of this Resolution or application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, no other provision of this Resolution will be affected thereby.

SECTION FIVE. Posting and Publication.

This Ordinance will be posted in three (3) public places in the District within ten (10) days of its adoption.

SECTION SIX. Effective Date.

This Ordinance will take effect on _____, 2008.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Directors of the Sierra Lakes County Water District, Placer County, State of California, on the ____ day of _____, 2008, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTENTIONS:

SIERRA LAKES COUNTY WATER DISTRICT

President, Board of Directors

ATTEST:

Secretary, Board of Directors