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United States Department of the Interior

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EL DORADO COUNTY

2011 MAY 31 AM 11:41

**MAY 27 2011**

Mr. Raymond J. Nutting  
Chairman  
El Dorado County Board of Supervisors  
330 Fair Lane  
Placerville, CA 95667

Dear Chairman Nutting:

On behalf of Secretary Ken Salazar, I am responding to your letter of February 7, 2011, and Resolution No. 020-2011 of the Board of Supervisors of the County of El Dorado (Board), "The Auburn State Recreation Area." I apologize for the delay in this response. In the resolution, the Board addresses the management of and proposed funding for Auburn Project Lands (Project Lands). I appreciate the Board's interest in the management of the Project Lands.

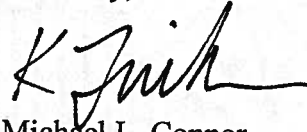
The Bureau of Reclamation manages the Project Lands fundamentally as a project site pending future direction from Congress or the Department of the Interior. Reclamation's basic obligations in that regard are public safety and resource stewardship. Since 1978 the California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) has provided law enforcement, emergency response, basic visitor management, and other services on the Project Lands through successive agreements with Reclamation. Further, since 1986 Reclamation has worked in partnership with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Cal Fire) and local communities to manage wildland fire risk through the construction and maintenance of shaded fuel breaks, brush removal, and other pre-suppression activities.

Reclamation has identified public safety and stewardship of the Project Lands, as well as Folsom Dam and Reservoir and Lake Natoma, as a funding priority for fiscal year 2012 and beyond. On that basis, Reclamation's Mid-Pacific Region is currently negotiating with DPR on a new long-term agreement and with Cal Fire on an extensive fuels management program. I expect the negotiations to be successfully completed and new contracts and agreements implemented by September 30, 2011. I am also optimistic that funds will be available for that purpose, but Reclamation must necessarily defer to the Congressional appropriations process. In the meantime, Reclamation will continue to collaborate in partnership with the State of California, the Board, local elected officials, and other stakeholders to promote safe, responsible management of this important resource.

Thank you for your continuing interest in and concern for the Project Lands. Should you require additional information, please contact Mr. Michael Finnegan, Area Manager, Central California Area Office, at 916-989-7200 or [mfinnegan@usbr.gov](mailto:mfinnegan@usbr.gov).

Sincerely,

**Acting For**



Michael L. Connor  
Commissioner

cc: Ms. Suzanne Allen de Sanchez  
Clerk of the Board  
El Dorado County Board of Supervisors  
330 Fair Lane  
Placerville, CA 95667