

COUNCIL POLICY

SUBJECT: SELF-SUSTAINING RESERVOIR RECREATION PROGRAM
POLICY NO.: 400-03
EFFECTIVE DATE: December 15, 2008

BACKGROUND

The City of San Diego has conducted a Lakes Recreation Program since the establishment of the City's municipal reservoir system in 1913. The primary purpose of the City's reservoir system is the impoundment and production of a safe, domestic water supply. Public recreation is, by necessity, a secondary but highly valuable byproduct of the reservoir system.

Historically, patronage of municipal reservoirs was based primarily on special interest activities such as fishing, waterfowl hunting and camping. Council Policy 400-3 was originally developed to ensure that the City Lakes Recreation Program operates on a self-sustaining basis with user fees offsetting all associated costs of the program.

As a result of general growth in San Diego and residential development around municipal reservoirs (particularly Murray and Miramar), public usage and policies for public access have changed significantly from an orientation toward revenue producing, special interest activities to non-revenue producing community use activities and access. From 1993 to 2006, general water rates were used to offset all costs associated with basic levels of public access, community usage, and related grounds and facility maintenance (Tier I). In 2006, the San Diego County Grand Jury addressed the use of Water Department and Metropolitan Waste Water Department enterprise funds for purposes unrelated to the water and wastewater systems. Subsequently, the Mayor directed that these Tier I costs incurred by the Water Department for recreational activities should be fully reimbursed by the City General Fund.

PURPOSE:

It is the intention of the City Council that the San Diego City Lakes Recreation Program continues to provide broad-based leisure and recreational opportunities for the citizens of and visitors to the City of San Diego. The General Fund will reimburse the Water Department Enterprise Fund for all costs associated with basic levels of public access, community usage and related grounds and facility maintenance (Tier I). Reasonable user fees will continue to offset the direct costs associated with Tier II Traditional Recreation Programs (fishing, boating and waterfowl hunting) and Tier III Water Contact Program (water-skiing, jet skiing, boardsailing) activities.

COUNCIL POLICYPOLICY:

The City Council recognizes that the primary purpose of the municipal reservoir system is the impoundment and production of a safe municipal water supply. The City Lakes Recreation Program is highly valued by the citizens of San Diego for the leisure and recreation activities it provides. Aside from the primary purpose of providing for the municipal water supply, public access, recreation and protection of natural watershed, are the most valuable public benefit and goal of all reservoir system management. The Mayor is authorized to recommend reasonable user fees to offset costs to provide Lake recreation activities, with City Council approval.

In recognition of the primary purpose of the municipal reservoir system, the Director of Public Utilities has the authority to temporarily suspend any recreation activity due to water quality, security or safety issues, for a period not to exceed ninety days, without City Council approval.

CROSS REFERENCE:

Municipal Code Sec. 67.41

HISTORY:

Adopted by Resolution R-172824 09/27/1962
Amended by Resolution R-211482 09/05/1974
Amended by Resolution R-254869 08/24/1981
Amended by Resolution R-281341 01/11/1993
Amended by Resolution R-304452 12/15/2008