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ORDINANCE NO. 2008-083

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
SIERRA LAKES COUNTY WATER DISTRICT CONCERNING THE
MANAGEMENT OF SERENE LAKES FOR WATER SUPPLY
MANAGEMENT, 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 management, 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 Serene Lakes Subdivision and community.
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 Serene Lakes Subdivision.
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 Serene Lakes pursuant to water right Permit No. 14248 (Application 20601). The District's diversion pipe is located in the upper 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 bypass inflow.
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 create a peninsula physically separating Lake Dulzura from Lake

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Serena. A water surface elevation of approximately 6870 feet is necessary to maintain a surface 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 top of the dam spillway in order to maintain a contiguous surface connection between Lake Dulzura and Lake Serena for water supply, water quality and recreational purposes.
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. Management of Serene Lakes for Aesthetic, Ecological, and Recreational Purposes.

Section ___ of Division ___ of Chapter ___ is hereby amended as follows:

The District shall balance the consumptive and non-consumptive uses of Serene Lakes, and shall manage Serene Lakes for water supply management, recreational, aesthetic and other non-consumptive purposes. The District shall not lower lake elevations to levels where the water supply, water quality, aesthetic, ecological and recreational values of Serene Lakes are significantly degraded, provided, however, the District may lower levels for short periods of time in a water supply emergency. The current target minimum lake elevation is 6870.67 feet NGVD 29, or three feet below the top of the dam spillway. The District may adjust the minimum lake elevation target as appropriate for the maintenance of recreational uses, water quality, and aesthetic and ecological values.

SECTION THREE. Inconsistency.

To the extent that the terms and provisions of this Ordinance 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 Ordinance 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 Ordinance or application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, no other provision of this Ordinance 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.

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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