



# Staff Report

for the Board of Directors' Meeting of April 14, 2021

**TO:** Board of Directors  
**FROM:** Monica Reyes, Recreation Manager  
**DATE:** April 6, 2021  
**SUBJECT:** **Scotts Flat Lake Voluntary No Wake/5MPH**

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## *RECREATION*

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

Review, discuss and receive direction for the Scott Flat Lake voluntary no wake/5MPH restriction, as recommended by the Maintenance and Resources Committee, on January 26, 2021.

### **BACKGROUND:**

Campground lakes opened for the 2020 season on May 29. Due to COVID-19, the hours were restricted from 7:30 am to 7:00 pm with an additional “no-wake/5MPH” limit from 7:30 am to 9:30 am. These restrictions encouraged social distancing guidelines, while at the same time giving different lake users time on the lake.

On July 3, NID campground lakes resumed to regular boating hours of dawn to dusk with no other restrictions or limitations on speed or wake.

When the limitations were lifted in July 2020, the District received letters and public comment from non-motor users, swimmers, and neighbors requesting the “no-wake/5MPH” limit on boats with motors continue to be imposed from sunrise to 8:00 am – citing safety and alternative recreational use. NID also received letters and public comment from boaters, non-motor users, swimmers, neighbors, and campers requesting there be no change to the lake motorized access hours – citing safety and historical recreation use.

This item was reviewed and discussed at the Maintenance and Resources Committee Meetings of July 20, 2020, and January 26, 2021. Staff’s recommendation to the Committee was to leave the motorized boating hours as they

have historically been, dusk to dawn while following the posted speed limits of the lake. The direction of the Committee was to move forward with a trial period for the voluntary no wake/5MPH from dawn to 8 am, on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. This trial would be effective May 1 and go through the end of September 2021.

The proposed voluntary trial period would have limited enforcement given that NID staff does not have the capacity or capability of enforcing the no-wake request.

Staff also looked into a restriction on so-called “dry-exhaust” boats. Staff spoke with Sgt. Kress of the Nevada County Sheriff’s Department Marine Program and confirmed he is not aware of any “dry exhaust” boat bans in California. This restriction, if pursued, would require the implementation of a noise pollution code, which staff and Sgt. Kress believes at this time, is unwarranted.

Should the Board decide to move forward with a No-Wake/5MPH trial period and determine it should be implemented permanently, NID would seek to amend/add the appropriate County Ordinance and Codes and at that time, may update to include “dry-exhaust” boats if it chooses.

**BUDGETARY IMPACT:**

The total budgetary impact is unknown at this time. The cost for signs is \$252.00.

Attachments:

- Proposed signage

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**3'x3' Corex  
(4) @ \$63.00 each**

**VOLUNTARY  
TRIAL PERIOD  
Effective May 1, 2021  
thru  
September 30, 2021**

***“NO WAKE/5MPH” from SUNRISE to 8AM,  
every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday***

We are asking users to help with this trial period by voluntarily following the change to our boating/no wake hours



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