



KEEPING LAKE TULLOCH FULL 365

For more than a half century Lake Tulloch has been regarded as one of the greatest recreational lakes in California even featured in national magazines. It has also become the home to thousands of people with the lake being one of the few reservoirs in the west with private property on its banks. Every year for more than 50 years the lake was always lowered in the fall and winter months and even into early spring. When the water is lowered the lake is difficult to access and most boats and many docks have to be moved to deeper water.

In the fall of 2018 a petition was spontaneously created by interested citizens that calls upon the United States Government to work with other agencies to create a plan to maintain the lake at a near full capacity. The following is the petition signed by nearly 400 citizens.

“We the citizens of the Lake Tulloch Basin support action by the United States Army Corps of Engineers in concert with other federal, state and local authorities to end the practice of lowering and raising Lake Tulloch in the fall and spring. This procedure is no longer needed for flood control since the New Melones Reservoir controls nearly all major water releases into the lake. Tulloch Dam was built in 1957 and Melones in 1979. We urge Congressman McClintock, and other public officials to support this proposal. This action will control erosion and provide a year-round recreational lake for hundreds of thousands of people in the region. It will also enhance the Lake Tulloch/Copperopolis Basin as a year-round recreational location, our community, our economy, and our way of life. We understand that the lowering of the lake may be required for repairs by Tri Dam, but it simply makes no sense to not maintain the lake at capacity the vast majority of days of the year.”

The following are many of the comments made by citizens signing the petition. There is a clearly a strong desire for the government to act on behalf of the public, the local economy and even the ecology and well being of the lake itself.

Comments from the Public on the Petition Proposing the US Army Corps of Engineers Establish a New Policy on Lake Tulloch's Levels

- Living by the lake and only able to enjoy our boat and the lake only 5 months a year does not make sense!
- Maintaining the reservoir level year-round would also reduce the amount of bank erosion during the rainy season as more of the perimeter would remain submerged.
- We cannot launch our boat when the lake is lowered.
- It's important for the local businesses to keep open during the off season. Many people would continue to use the lake year-round if the launch ramps were more accessible
- Copperopolis is a vibrant community - with many homeowners, a school, shops and restaurants. Lake Tulloch is also very beautiful with so much wildlife - including herons, bald eagles, and a rich variety of other birds. I think that having the lake higher for longer would be good for the fish and the animals and also attract visitors for longer which would be a great boost to the local economy which is badly needed
- Jobs/Environment/Real estate/Recreation: Year-round use and enjoyment means increased, steady revenue for local businesses, and likewise for employees at those businesses rather than downsizing due to offseason. Minimizing shore erosion due to wake action at fluctuating/lower lake levels (agree with 5yr maintenance draw down period needed). Year-round Accessibility & Recreation...convenient access to Drifters or south shore marina or visiting friends/family also living around the lake or enjoying various lake activities. Benefits of a full lake are endless; should be a no brainer concept!
- New Melones feeds into this lake and has plenty of capacity to hold run off during the winter/spring months. Lowering the lake negatively affects residents, the economy and water quality. As a resident of Folsom, I see the lake drained yearly because we have no upstream capacity, Tulloch does. Keep the water levels up year round
- Lake Tulloch has many retired full-time homeowners. Many family members travel to visit their parents or friends to enjoy the lake and create wonderful memories. The weather is such that the lake can be enjoyed for fishing, kayaking, boating, and swimming year-round. The local businesses are hurt by lack of tourism from Sept to May. As others commented, there is no necessity to lower the lake every year except for maintenance of the dam.
- This is important to me because I would like to have water to kayak year-round not only a few months out of the year. It would also support small businesses stay in businesses and even raise our house values. Keep Lake Tulloch full year-round.
- This will help make the area economically more viable and a better place to live.
- This is only logical, and it would improve year-round access to the lake for year-round residents as well as those vacationers who are able to take advantage of the less crowded fall, winter and spring seasons.
- Extending the high-water season would be beneficial for our local economy, environment, recreational uses and water management
- Better for the local economies and the residents that live around the lake. Also, more storage of water for drinking and the agricultural communities down river from Tulloch
- No reason not to. It is important to our community. Why would you not keep it full. What is a good reason?
- This is important to me because it directly affects me. I own a home on the lake and when the water is lowered during the winter, I cannot launch my boat. I enjoy fishing, boating, and jet skiing year-round, but I cannot access the lake during the winters. This lack of winter access also affects my home value.
- For recreation and wildlife support and because there is no longer a reason to draw down 10 feet since the New Melones dam was built

- The lake should be usable all year but cannot be because our ramp is out of the water. Let's use it all year long! That should raise all our property values.
- It will be advantageous to have access to the lake year-round for full time homeowners to use but also for economic growth to have more visitors in the off season who come and eat at the restaurants and shop while they are staying at the lake or just fishing for the day.
- Will increase property values and stimulate local economy? Would potentially attract additional restaurants and businesses in the area if there were more non-summer visitors due to a full lake.
- Living fulltime on the lake, i only have water at my backyard during the summer months due to the water draw. The fishing is better in the cooler months; the weather is usually nice enough for boating the majority of the year. Drawing the water level down makes it difficult to enjoy the lake, not to mention the increased insect population. Please consider keeping Lake Tulloch full year-round!
- The ability to enjoy the recreational benefits of my home are limited by the lowering of the lake 9 months out of the year. It also has an economic effect as it relates to real estate values, in addition to the local area economy which relies upon its business for 3 months of the year to provide annual incomes.
- This lake is the life blood of this community.
- Year-round access and availability of recreational use of the lake helps not only the residents but also attracts other users from surrounding areas which helps the economy and property values in our area. Tulloch is one of the few lakes with year-round homes around its shores. We have to annually move our boat docks back and forth as well as not have the use of the lake for the winter. Occasional lowering for maintenance is of course necessary and understandable.
- Eliminates need to remove boats & docks. Plus, we pay for slips for full year and only get 6 months usage.
- I would love to be able to enjoy the lake year-round with my children. Go fishing and patron the businesses that we love during the summer. Also, purchasing property would be way more appealing as well.
- Since the construction of New Melones Reservoir, the data shows that the lowering of the Lake Tulloch Reservoir is not necessary for flood control. In addition, research and evidence presented has shown that the practice of lowering the Lake Tulloch Reservoir in order to protect certain wildlife is also ineffective, unnecessary and wasteful. Many residents, including ourselves, live on Lake Tulloch year-round and the annual lowering of the Lake Tulloch Reservoir limits our use and others wanting to use the lake for a significant portion of the year when the water levels are lowered. Please discontinue this unnecessary and wasteful practice for the benefit of all parties involved.
- After owning property on the lake for over 50 years it is time to end this practice of lowering the lake levels each year. I do support the lowering of the lake periodically (once every 5 years) to enable waterfront work/maintenance.
- My family owns property on the water and I am a Contractor that builds on the water. The fluctuation of the water level wreaks havoc on the retaining walls around the lake undermining the walls and causes damage to docks. when the water level is low during the winter it erodes the new shoreline that is exposed that would have been underwater during the summer
- I live here, taking water out erodes the land under the homes, also the pressure from the water holds the land, you keep on filling up and letting out water the land will slide, one house is going into the lake already. maybe do this to the release of over 10ft water ever year, and 20 ft. every 5 years to check damn. all just a water grab.
- Keep recreation going all year. Keep access to launch ramps open all year when water level drops some ramps are not usable.
- Businesses survive and thrive from visitors to our lake community.
- This is important to me because this lake brings revenue to our town. It's important to keep what we have as far as restaurants on the lake open and with business to support it. Seasonal makes things rough. In case of a real drought why let out water out when it may not be able to be replaced.