



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY
Southwest Region Office
PO Box 47775, Olympia, WA 98504-7775 • 360-407-6300

December 13, 2023

Audrey Richards, President
Summit Lake Community Association
11545 Summit Lake Rd,
Olympia, WA 98502

Summitlakeca.pres@gmail.com

Dear Audrey Richards:

As the Summit Lake Community Association is aware, Court Order 28006 (November 29, 1954) decrees the proper and certain water level is the level reaching 1.5 feet on a stadia gage located on the piling forming a portion of a certain described pier located at the Kennedy Creek outlet from Summit Lake.

While the pier and the attached stadia gage have since been destroyed, the **1.5 feet elevation referred to in the decree is the elevation of the top of the concrete center pier at the outlet structure currently present at this location.**

- This order establishing the desired level is interpreted to mean that during the winter months this level is not to be exceeded through any active management of flow and during the summer months the level is to be maintained, as much as practicable by retention of water in the lake with the dam flashboards.
- This means that on an annual basis, gradually removing flashboards from the outlet structure once fall rains have begun and the outlet discharge has materially increased, typically by October 1st.
- Conversely, as water levels drop the flashboards are to be reinstalled in the structure, such that the decreed level will be reached and maintained by April 1, again as much as practicable.
- Once installed, the boards shall remain in place throughout the summer months (June through August) to help assist with sustaining the decreed water level in the lake.

A letter from the Department of Ecology to Mr. Gary Piercy, dated March 12, 1976, designated Mr. Piercy as the "volunteer watermaster" for dam operation for the Summit Lake Community Association (SLCA).

Since 1976 the SLCA, through an SLCA volunteer member, has been removing and replacing the boards in April and October per the 1976 Department of Ecology letter.



This letter from the Department of Ecology – Water Resources Program – Southwest Region to SLCA serves to supersede that letter as well as to provide additional clarifications.

Under RCW 90.24.050, Ecology and the SLCA agree that the SLCA will find a minimum of one member of the community to volunteer and be appointed to manage the Summit Lake outflow structure. This person must be a volunteer and reside on or near the lake a minimum of 50% of the year.

Responsibilities will include:

- operating the water control outlet structure,
- supervise and obtain appropriate permits/permissions to conduct maintenance of the water works, and
- make such necessary adjustments to maintain the water elevation in accordance with this letter.

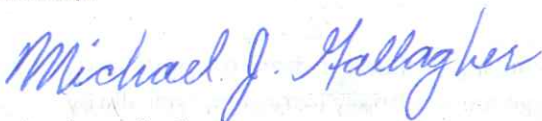
In addition, the SLCA will obtain, and keep current, a Hydraulic Project Authorization (HPA) from Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) to ensure the water flow over the dam is not impeded by beaver dams or woodlands debris. The SLCA designated volunteer will work cooperatively with the Pacific Harbors Council (PHC) of the Boy Scouts of America (BSA), the property owners where the dam is located, to accomplish these activities.

SLCA is directed to regularly communicate with community residents and lakeshore property owners on its management of water levels and specifically on planned actions to adjust the water outlet structure. This communication shall be accomplished through regular written updates, verbal reports at all regularly scheduled SLCA General Meetings, as well as being published on the public SLCA website.

Finally, SLCA is directed to submit to the Department of Ecology Water Resources Program an annual letter by January 31 of each calendar year reporting on the actions taken regarding the operation of the dam and maintenance of lake levels for the previous calendar year.

This appointment will continue in effect until further notice. This appointment may be revoked at any time by either Ecology or SLCA with 120 days' notice.

Sincerely,



Michael J. Gallagher
Southwest Region Section Manager
Water Resources Program
Department of Ecology

cc: Rich Doenges, Regional Director, Southwest Region, Department of Ecology

