



TUOLUMNE UTILITIES DISTRICT

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BARGE TO COLLECT SAMPLES AT PHOENIX LAKE

SONORA, CA: The Tuolumne Utilities District (TUD) is moving forward with design and permitting for the Phoenix Lake Preservation and Restoration Project (Project), which will improve the water quality and storage capacity of the lake. Starting next week, Horizon Water and Environment, Inc. and its sub consultants, will be conducting sediment sampling on Phoenix Lake from Monday, June 20th through Thursday, June 23rd between the working hours of 7am and 4pm. The sampling will be carried out through the use of a floating barge.



Phoenix Lake – Sonora, CA

“The District and the Phoenix Lake Task Force have been collaborating for several years to bring this project to fruition. We are pleased to be able to take the next step in the process to design and secure permits for the project. The results of the lab analysis of the sediment will inform us about the chemical composition of the sediment, its physical characteristics, and also any environmental issues that may need to be addressed when the sediment is removed from the lake,” states Erik Johnson, District Engineer.

Phoenix Lake is an 88-acre water storage reservoir located approximately 3 miles east of the City of Sonora. Phoenix Lake water rights and facilities, as well as portions of the lake, are owned by the TUD. The TUD uses the lake as a primary drinking water source for the communities of Sonora, Jamestown, Scenic View and Mono Village. While the allowable storage capacity of the lake is approximately 850 acre-feet (ac-ft), the current capacity is only 600 ac-ft. Reduced lake capacity affects the water quality at Phoenix Lake, which is marginal at times and is declining due to nutrient inputs, sedimentation and invasive aquatic vegetation.

The District has received approximately \$5 million dollars in grant funding through the Tuolumne-Stanislaus Integrated Regional Water Management Authority for the Phoenix Lake Preservation and Restoration Project.

This project will improve the water quality and restore storage capacity in Phoenix Lake and the Phoenix Lake watershed. The project will also include the construction of a sediment forebay to remove a majority of the sediments transported to the lake via the Sullivan Creek watershed.

Sediment removal is essential to improve water quality conditions in the lake and the long term health of the lake and maintain its storage capacity. The actual dredging phase of the project is estimated to begin in Spring of 2018.

More information on the Phoenix Lake Preservation and Restoration Plan can be found on the District's website at [http://www.tudwater.com/projects-development/phoenix lake plan](http://www.tudwater.com/projects-development/phoenix_lake_plan).

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