



Spring Valley Lake Association

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Message from the Board President for September 2019

By now you have heard that your Board has approved the 2019-2020 budget. While most of the budget included standard increases relative to increasing costs, one area stands out and as something different.

Everyone knows that one of our most important assets is our lake. The lake is the center of our community not only in use, but aesthetically also. The health of our lake determines our enjoyment of this asset and has an impact on the value of our homes. A beautiful functioning lake will add value to our community. In contrast, a poorly functioning lake will have a negative impact on our home values.

The association has always sought to keep the water clear in our lake. However, in the last few years, the entire State of California has had a problem with Harmful Algae Blooms. This is not unique to Spring Valley Lake. Recently, Silverwood Lake had to be closed because of this problem. We are additionally challenged in that the water that leaves our lake ends up in the Mojave River, which is a U.S. Waterway. All treatments must be approved and that is a difficult process, if even possible.

Our association is very fortunate to have an excellent Lake Committee that is working with staff to bring solutions for our lake. Under their guidance, we have already built one filter that is cleaning the water. We are in the process of building more; but filters only cure the symptom and not the cause. The Lake Committee has researched an additional solution that involves adding plant "islands" that will further combat the problem naturally; which brings us back to our budget.

The solution for the "plant islands" was proposed at \$120,000. That is a lot of money. However, at the time of approving the budget, your board did not believe we had enough information and documentation to approve that project. We are confident that the Lake Committee will provide further information and documentation so that we can approve at a later date. Waiting until next year's budget process appeared to be problematic, as we need to move quicker than that.

The solution the board chose was to assess for that \$120,000, but not release any funds until the board approves the proposal. This allows us to have the money ready for a January start date if approved. If we do not approve the proposal, the money allocated can either: not be spent, used for the coving project, or some other solution. Your board believes this to be the most prudent course of action.

Another issue that surfaced during this discussion was our budget committee and planning committee process. We lack a clearly defined procedure for projects such as this to go through a planning and budget process and committee. With that said, we have tasked the existing Budget Committee to immediately begin work on creating a process so that other groups will know how and when to submit their projects for approval. Upon completion of that work, we will coordinate with the Planning Committee to likewise update their process to work with the budget committee.

If you have any interest in serving on these two committees, please contact the Association Office.

Thanks,

Rory Shannon
SVLA Board President

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