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City of Chowchilla



Press Release

For Release: May 12, 2009

Berenda Reservoir Not Opening this Summer

Chowchilla, CA, May 12, 2009: The City of Chowchilla will not open the Berenda Reservoir for the upcoming summer months. The current economic conditions that have impacted the country, the state, and the City have forced the City Council to make difficult decisions to ensure that core City services continue to be provided for the community residents. Unfortunately, opening the Berenda Reservoir obligates the City to spend funds to prepare the site prior to opening, maintain the facility, and provide policing and emergency response services during the open season. The City does not have the funds available to pay for the 2009 season due to a decrease in revenues. However, the City is open to review options for the special events (i.e. boat races) held each year at Berenda Reservoir.

The City of Chowchilla recognizes the recreational value of Berenda Reservoir as a nearby site for boating, lake swimming and picnicking. Fortunately residents have access to other nearby lakes that can accommodate these activities that include Yosemite Lake Park just north of Merced, and the Eastman Lake and Hensley Lake Recreation Areas in the foothills east of Chowchilla.

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