



**Boreal Mountain Resort** PO Box 39 - Truckee, CA 96160 p: 530-426-3173 f: 530-426-3173

November 15, 2017

Felicia Marcus, Chair  
California State Water Resources Control Board  
P.O. Box 100  
Sacramento, CA 95812-0100

Chair Marcus:

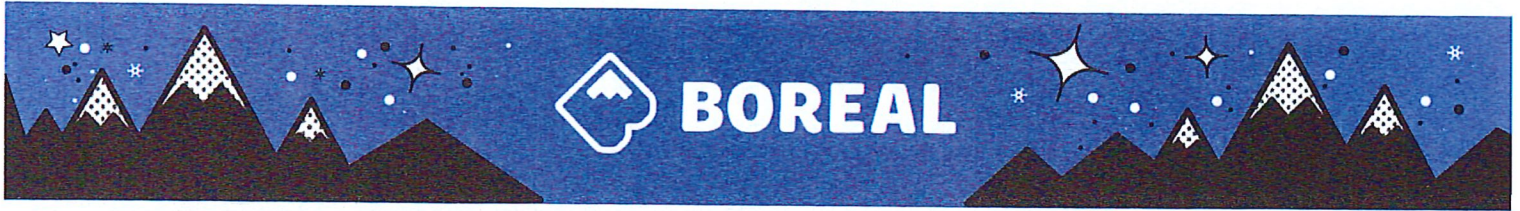
On behalf of the Soda Springs Mountain Resort and Boreal Mountain Resort, I am writing to urge your support for the Donner Summit Public Utility District's (DSPUD) request to refinance the District's Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) loan to zero percent interest. Not only does DSPUD provide drinking water and wastewater treatment for our resort, the District also provides recycled water for snow making. We are the first and only ski resort in California to use recycled water for snow making.

At Soda Springs Resort, we believe using reclaimed water for snowmaking is both environmentally and economically responsible. This project was awarded the 2016 National Ski Areas Association Golden Eagle Award for environmental excellence. DSPUD was our partner in this innovation and continues to support our operations and advancements. This public-private partnership is an industry-leading example of finding successful solutions to water challenges. Our business supported the 56 percent rate increase in 2011 before construction of the new treatment plant began, because we understood it was the right investment for our community, visitors and the environment.

Our Partnership with DSPUD is a critical element of our resort success. We look forward to many more years of working with Donner Summit PUD on ways to preserve and reuse our state's most precious resource.

Our resorts are known as the best places to families to have their first experience in the mountains. Soda Springs is known for affordability and low barrier to entry for guests who are new to snow sports. Our Recycled Water Initiative and partnership with DSPUD has enables consistent operations, reliable employment for our staff, and significant growth and local economic benefit.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions about this unique and celebrated partnership. We urge you to support the District's request.



**Boreal Mountain Resort** PO Box 39 - Truckee, CA 96160 p: 530-426-3173 f: 530-426-3173

Sincerely,

**JENNIFER ANDERSON**

**Finance Manager**

Boreal Mountain Resort | Woodward Tahoe | Soda Springs

PO Box 39 Truckee, CA. 96160

O|530.426.3666 (x33182) C|253.691.7103

***On behalf of:***

**AMY OHRAN**

**President & General Manager**

Boreal Mountain Resort | Woodward Tahoe | Soda Springs

PO Box 39 Truckee, CA. 96160

O|530.426.1105 C|541.948.7502

Cc: State Water Resources Control Board Members





**Sugar Bowl Resort - Royal Gorge Cross Country**

PO Box 5 | Norden, CA 95724  
629 Sugar Bowl Road | Norden, CA 95724  
Tel: (530) 426-9000 | Fax: (530) 426-3723  
[sugarbowl.com](http://sugarbowl.com) | [royalgorge.com](http://royalgorge.com)

November 10, 2017

Felicia Marcus, Chair  
California State Water Resources Control Board  
P.O. Box 100  
Sacramento, CA 95812-0100

Chair Marcus:

On behalf of the Sugar Bowl Corporation, California owned and operated since 1939, I am writing to urge your support for the Donner Summit Public Utility District's (DSPUD) appeal to refinance the DSPUD's Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) loan to zero percent interest. DSPUD provides drinking water and wastewater treatment for Sugar Bowl Ski Resort and its associated facilities located on Donner Summit, CA.

We have been a committed partner with DSPUD since it began the process to comply with state-mandated water quality discharge requirements. We supported the construction of a state-of-the-art wastewater treatment facility and approved, along with the majority of district rate payers, a 56% rate increase to repay the nearly \$18 million loan from the state. We understand it will still be necessary for the District to ask ratepayers to increase rates, but the increase will be more moderate and less likely to risk failing the Prop. 218 process.

Donner Summit as a community has been challenged over the past few decades to grow and thrive, particularly as a home for full-time residents. While there are economic opportunities spurred on in part by the few seasonal businesses, e.g., Sugar Bowl Resort, Royal Gorge, Boreal, Soda Springs Ski Area, the economic challenges confronting the residents of this small, rural community are made more challenging by the high cost of resort area housing and the extraordinary cost of utility services. The impact of the variable costs to each resident and budding small business has been significant and has contributed to a slow decline and stagnation of small business and residential development.

Sugar Bowl continues to financially support both the capitalization and standby maintenance of the plant, often despite our own difficult financial circumstances brought

on by the four years of draught. While the benefits of a new wastewater treatment plant are many, the residences of this small community struggle with the burden of supporting the new plant that additionally benefits other communities located beyond the DSPUD service area. This community desperately needs cost-of-living relief to spur on growth and investment and to shake-off the stagnation that has gripped Donner Summit.

We urge you to support the District's request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Greg Dallas", written in a cursive style.

Greg Dallas, CEO/President

Cc: State Water Resources Control Board Members



## SOUTH YUBA RIVER CITIZENS LEAGUE

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November 15, 2017

Felicia Marcus, Chair  
California State Water Resources Control Board  
P.O. Box 100  
Sacramento, CA 95812

**Re: Donner Summit PUD Clean Water State Revolving Fund Loan**

Chairwoman Marcus,

The South Yuba River Citizens League (SYRCL) is pleased to support the Donner Summit Public Utility District's (DSPUD) request to refinance its loan from 2.2% interest to 0%.

As a community organization representing 3,500 members and 1,000 active volunteers including 80 trained river monitors, we work to protect the Yuba River and are naturally concerned about downstream impacts from the DSPUD Wastewater Treatment Plant.

We recognize the DSPUD's wastewater treatment plant upgrade was a sizeable financial investment and environmental commitment from the surrounding community, the DSPUD Board and staff to protect the river. The nearly \$18 million project has resulted in significant improvements in the South Yuba River water quality, however, if faced with another significant rate increase, we're concerned ratepayers will not be able to make the same commitment to the river as they have since 2012.

We have enjoyed partnering with DSPUD and the Board to maximize river health and vitality for the people and environment of the Yuba watershed in the past and look forward to a continued partnership for many years to come.

Sincerely,

Melinda Booth  
Executive Director

cc: Board Members, State Water Resources Control Board  
Tom Skjelstad, DSPUD General Manager

CAPITOL OFFICE  
STATE CAPITOL, ROOM 3076  
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814  
TEL (916) 651-4001  
FAX (916) 651-4901

# California State Senate

SENATOR  
**TED GAINES**  
FIRST SENATE DISTRICT



COMMITTEES  
INSURANCE  
VICE CHAIR  
GOVERNMENTAL  
ORGANIZATION  
LEGISLATIVE ETHICS  
TRANSPORTATION AND  
HOUSING

November 29, 2017

Felicia Marcus, Chair  
California State Water Resources Control Board  
P.O. Box 100  
Sacramento, CA 95812-0100

Dear Chair Marcus:

As the representative for the Donner Summit Public Utility District (DSPUD) in the California State Senate, I support DSPUD's request to refinance their Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) loan from 2.2% to 0% interest. DSPUD serves my constituents, providing them with quality drinking water and reliable wastewater treatment.

Despite DSPUD's classification as a Small Disadvantaged Community, their ratepayers approved to increase rates by 56% in 2012 to cover the nearly \$18 million loan for their wastewater treatment plant upgrades. However, due to unforeseen circumstances, this significant rate increase was not enough to make the annual loan payments without using \$275,000 in reserves to meet each payment.

Without debt relief, DSPUD would have to raise rates by 18% over the next five years to meet their loan requirements. This increase would put rates at 5.6% of the median household income, 1.6% higher than what is recommended by the state. It is for this reason that the DSPUD came to the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) staff two years ago to ask for help. Zero percent interest for the remaining loan balance would mean DSPUD could ask ratepayers for a more reasonable rate increase.

The DSPUD is the first discharger in the State of California to supply recycled water for snowmaking operations. This is a prime example of the kind of smart water reuse SWRCB has consistently promoted over the years, and I believe this type of financial support is essential to encouraging similar opportunities in other districts.

I urge you, and your fellow board members, to approve the 0% interest for the remainder of DSPUD's loan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ted Gaines".

Ted Gaines  
Senator, 1<sup>st</sup> District

Cc: State Water Resources Control Board Members



STATE CAPITOL  
P.O. BOX 942849  
SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0001  
(916) 319-2001  
FAX (916) 319-2101

Assembly  
California Legislature



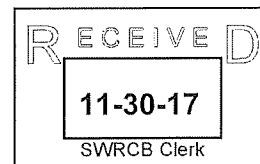
**BRIAN DAHLE**  
ASSEMBLY REPUBLICAN LEADER  
FIRST DISTRICT

DISTRICT OFFICE  
280 HEMSTED DRIVE, SUITE 110  
REDDING, CA 96002  
(530) 223-6300  
FAX (530) 223-6737

E-MAIL  
Assemblymember.Dahle@assembly.ca.gov  
(12/5-6/17) Board Meeting- Item 8  
CWSRF for Donner Summit  
Deadline: 11/30/17 by 12 noon

October 3, 2017

Felicia Marcus, Chair  
California State Water Resources Control Board  
P.O. Box 100  
Sacramento, CA 95812-0100



Chair Marcus:

I'm writing to express our support for the recommendation from the Division of Financial Assistance to refinance the Donner Summit Public Utility District's Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) loan to zero percent interest. Donner Summit PUD is in our Assembly and Senate District and we understand firsthand the financial difficulties the full-time residents of the area face.

As a result of the rate payers' willingness to increase rates by 56% to repay the nearly \$18 million loan, Donner Summit PUD, which is classified as a Small Disadvantaged Community, completed an upgrade and expansion to its wastewater treatment plant to meet their mandated discharge requirements. Unfortunately, since the initial rate increase and financial planning for this project, a number of circumstances outside of the District's control put their ability to repay the loan in question.

Zero percent interest for the remaining loan balance will mean the District can ask ratepayers to approve a more reasonable rate increase, and allow the District to cease using \$275,000 in reserves each year to make their annual payment.

I'm proud to represent Donner Summit PUD, which became the first discharger in the State of California to supply recycled water for snowmaking operations. This is a prime example of the kind of smart water reuse the Board has consistently promoted over the years.

I urge you, and your fellow board members, to approve the staff recommendation.

Sincerely,

**BRIAN DAHLE**  
Assembly Minority Leader, 1<sup>st</sup> District

November 29, 2017

Felicia Marcus, Chair  
California State Water Resources Control Board  
P.O. Box 100  
Sacramento, CA 95812-0100

Dear Chair Marcus,

As you know, the Donner Summit Public Utility District (District) serves a small area of a unique Sierra Nevada community. The District serves approximately 200 single family homes, a gas station, a market and a post office, plus two Cal Trans rest areas and five ski resorts. It also treats the wastewater from our next door neighbor Sierra Lakes County Water District. As you can imagine, this is a complex District with fluctuating flows, extreme weather, and a difficult history.

I'd like to address the Ratepayers, particularly those like me and the other members of our District's Board who are living in the District, paying 4% of our modest incomes on wastewater alone. In 2012, wastewater rates increased 56% for the ratepayers of our District in order to pay for the new wastewater treatment plant. As a Board member, working parent, and ratepayer, this rate increase is not something I take lightly. Increased rates and a depressed economy in the years since taking the CWSRF loan, meant the working people of our District were struggling to keep afloat, and we saw a lot of friends, including members of our Board, leave for places where there was more work and a cheaper cost of living. Developers also succumbed to the economy and backed out of future development that has been built into the plant. By early 2016, the District knew that rates would have to increase dramatically to keep pace with Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) loan payments due to declines in the District's expected revenue sources.

The District is subsidizing \$275k of its annual CWSRF loan payment from reserve funds. The District's staff and Board are exploring ways to address that gap without adding the entire burden directly to ratepayers. We have been working with the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) staff and Board members as part of this effort. Ratepayers of the District are going to see another rate increase proposed regardless, but one of the ways to minimize that increase is to ask for the loan financing terms the District was eligible for at the date of its application.

As I understand it, because of the second homes in and around Soda Springs and Norden and because of the challenges in understanding the area's Median Household Income (MHI), the SWRCB regards the District as ineligible for the terms given a Small Disadvantaged Community. But, without questions, the District serves a community experiencing hardship:

- Approximately 40% of students in the school district qualify for free and reduced price meals.
- Like the rest of the Tahoe basin, the people who live here don't work here and the people who work here don't live here. Local jobs are mostly seasonal jobs and that workforce either commutes from Reno, Colfax, Sierraville, etc. or are part of the lucky fraction who are offered subsidized



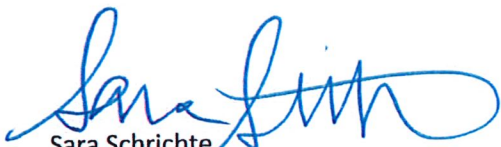
housing by their employers. Those of us who do live here typically earn at least some of our wages working outside the region in order to afford the local cost of living.

- The areas that the District serves vary widely:
  - The District treats wastewater for its neighboring District, Sierra Lakes County Water District (SLCWD), which has higher valued, mostly 2<sup>nd</sup> homes and its own water. SLCWD recently negotiated a reduction in its share of the wastewater treatment costs.
  - The District also serves Sugar Bowl Resort, the most real estate driven of the area resorts. Unfortunately, many of its wealthy homeowners are not connected to the system.
  - Finally, the District serves the approximately 200 modest homes and businesses of Donner Summit.
    - Rising costs and dwindling prospects have led homeowners to consider alternatives. Many homes that used to house full time residents are now rented by the weekend.
    - The few commercial buildings that used to house restaurants and other businesses that provided local jobs have been turned into more 2<sup>nd</sup> homes or employee housing.
    - Many former residences have become illegal marijuana grow houses, for which the owner might receive a year's worth of rent up front.

So, who is going to be impacted by another large rate increase? The District fields complaints about how expensive the rates are for all ratepayers. Already, we've seen multiple families leave the area. We've seen legitimate small businesses disappear. We've seen development postponed or abandoned. Future ratepayers of the District have already become past ratepayers. Certainly, the resorts will be impacted, as rates for the resorts' wastewater will increase by a large dollar amount, and higher rates will make plow service, vacation rentals, groceries, and all other services on the Summit more expensive. But what concerns me most is working families like mine could be paying more than 5% of our incomes on wastewater alone, and that's not right for any community.

I urge you to approve the 0% interest requested by the District and allow for a more modest rate increase to its ratepayers.

Sincerely,



Sara Schrichte

Vice President

Donner Summit Public Utility District