

**MIKE THOMPSON**

5TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

SUBCOMMITTEE ON SELECT REVENUE MEASURES

CHAIRMAN

SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH



**CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES**  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
**WASHINGTON, DC 20515**

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April 2, 2020

Brenda Burman  
Commissioner  
Bureau of Reclamation  
1849 C Street NW  
Washington DC 20240-0001

Dear Commissioner Burman:

I write to ask for the immediate closure of Lake Berryessa in order to help slow the spread of COVID-19 (coronavirus). Napa County and the state of California have already announced closures within their park systems and continuing operations puts my constituents at risk of exposure to the coronavirus.

While I understand that some areas like the Visitor Center at Lake Berryessa have been temporarily closed, Bureau of Reclamation is still renting campsites and RV spaces as well as renting boats for recreational purposes. We are told that social distancing practices are in place, however, not everyone is following those regulations and it is difficult to monitor. If the lake remains open, it begs for people to visit, which results in increased visitors and large crowds. Day-use areas such as park benches, picnic tables, and boat ramp accesses are potential areas a person can contact the virus. California's stay at home order is not a vacation. We need to do our part to stop the spread of this virus. Napa County supports the closure as well.

I understand that Californians need forms of relaxation, but we are trying to stop exposure from a global pandemic. I, respectfully, ask for immediate closure of Lake Berryessa to protect the health and safety of the park visitors and its staff.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mike Thompson".

**MIKE THOMPSON**  
Member of Congress