June 17, 2016

RE: Status Update for Lake Cushman and Lake Kokanee Shoreline Management

Dear Shoreline Lessee:

Hello. My name is Wynnae (pronounced win-NAY). I recently took a position with Tacoma Power as the Shoreline and Lands Coordinator. The primary objective of my role is to assist waterfront lessees in navigating shoreline permitting requirements. I will be your contact when working with Tacoma Power on permitting your shoreline uses and structures (see my complete contact information below).

The intent of this letter is to update you on the shoreline permit process Tacoma Power is implementing. We recently completed a comprehensive survey of shoreline uses at Lake Cushman and Lake Kokanee. The survey was a necessary component of implementing Tacoma Power’s Shoreline Management Plan (SMP) for our Cushman Hydroelectric Project and a requirement by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). Most waterfront lessees were mailed a survey questionnaire form in 2014; we thank you for helping us by completing and returning the form. The survey indicated 298 lots with structures, 58 of which are in compliance, and 240 out of compliance. Another result of the survey was discovery of many unclaimed structures, which Tacoma Power is now in the process of removing.

Tacoma Power is currently preparing a streamlined, step-by-step, permitting process to assist lessees in bringing their shoreline uses in line with Tacoma Power’s SMP. We anticipate implementing the new permitting process in the fall 2016. As part of the process improvements, we are working on better communication of the Shoreline Use Permit (SUP) requirements. The attached document is an example of the communication improvements we are creating; it illustrates the areas where a Shoreline Use Permit is required.

I will soon begin systematically contacting lessees to initiate the SUP process. We’ve identified over 240 upland lessees that require a new SUP for their structures located within the reservoir. Once our new process is in place our goal will be to have all structures permitted and in compliance within a five-year period. If you are interested in starting this process now rather than waiting for me to contact you, you are always welcome to self-initiate a new permit.

Furthermore, if you are planning any shoreline work, it is important that you first contact Tacoma Power directly. Please be aware that aside from needing a SUP from Tacoma Power, most shoreline uses, structures, and repairs will also require regulatory permits from additional agencies prior to commencement of any work. Tacoma Power is committed to assisting and working with you through the process.

Feel free to contact me at (253) 441-4180 / wwright@cityoftacoma.org if you have any questions or concerns. Thank you for your assistance and patience. I look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

Wynnae Wright
Shoreline and Lands Coordinator

Enclosure: Lake Cushman/Lake Kokanee Shoreline Diagram