



City of San Diego

**MARK KERSEY**

CITY COUNCILMAN, FIFTH DISTRICT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Lake Hodges Reopens for Windsurfing**

*Offered for the first time since 2003*

SAN DIEGO, California, Wednesday, April 2, 2014 – After more than ten years, Lake Hodges Reservoir will reopen to the general public for windsurfing it was announced today. Lake Hodges is the only city reservoir to allow windsurfing.

Councilman Mark Kersey, who represents the Rancho Bernardo area where Lake Hodges is located, worked closely with the City of San Diego Public Utilities Department and the windsurfing community to bring this recreational offering back to San Diego.

“I am pleased we’re bringing windsurfing back to Lake Hodges for local enthusiasts and others to enjoy,” said Councilman Kersey. “Our reservoirs are an integral part of our water management system but I believe they should also serve as a recreational asset for our communities.”

Windsurfing, or boardsailing as it is also known, will be allowed starting today, Wednesday, April 2 during the regular recreation schedule on Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays.

In addition to windsurfing, Lake Hodges continues to be available for fishing and other watercraft.

Windsurfing had been previously allowed from 1988 up until 2003 but was stopped during the construction of a pump station. The construction of the pump station was supposed to be completed in 2008 but was delayed until 2010 at which time the City’s fiscal issues prevented windsurfing from being reauthorized.

The City of San Diego coordinates closely with the State of California Department of Public Health to ensure that all activities which may impact the reservoir’s water quality are thoroughly evaluated and that proper measures to protect the water quality are in place. In addition, the City must ensure all local, state and federal accessibility, environmental security and safety concerns are considered and met.

For safety and water quality protection purposes, certain new rules are in place for windsurfing activities that did not apply when it was previously allowed including required use of personal floatation devices, inspection of quagga mussels and signing a personal liability waiver.

“We commend Councilmember Kersey and city staff for their leadership on this issue,” said Mayor Kevin Faulconer. “The new safety rules that are in place will allow for adequate protection of the public, wildlife and water quality at Lake Hodges Reservoir, while returning one of San Diego’s most unique recreation activities.”

Complete rules and regulations for recreational use of the reservoir are posted online at [www.sandiego.gov/water](http://www.sandiego.gov/water).

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