

STATEMENT FOR WALKER RIVER IRRIGATION DISTRICT STAFF
REGARDING POSTINGS ON WALKER RIVER IRRIGATION
DISTRICT PROPERTY AT TOPAZ RESERVOIR

In June of 2016, the Walker River Irrigation District received a petition from the Topaz Lake Homeowners' Association concerning safety and sanitation on a District parcel at Topaz Lake. Their concerns related to among other things, overnight camping, campfires, and trash, including human waste, on that parcel. They were especially interested in actions that would allow the Douglas County Sheriff's Office to respond to complaints of residents with respect to those activities.

As a result of that petition, the District consulted with Douglas County Community Services, Parks and Recreation Department and with the Douglas County District Attorney to determine what might be done. The goal of the District was to meet the legitimate concerns of the residents of the area while not unnecessarily limiting recreational use at Topaz Lake.

In order to allow the Douglas County Sheriff's Department to respond to complaints made by the residents, activities prohibited on the District parcel had to be properly posted. Given that Douglas County operates a public park at Topaz Lake, it seemed appropriate to prohibit overnight camping, campfires and vehicular access on the District parcel. That is what is now posted as being prohibited. That posting will allow the Douglas County Sheriff's Department to enforce those prohibitions and to respond to complaints from residents. The District's perspective is that this balances the legitimate interests of the Topaz Lake

Homeowners' Association and the persons living there and the ability of others to recreate on the District parcel in an appropriate and safe manner.