

Campers welcome at Pinto

By LANE WALLACE

Pat McQuade of San Jose wanted a small park for her firm to manage, but she knew it couldn't be just any park — it would have to have the facilities and ambience she wanted.

Ms. McQuade was in for a pleasant surprise when she found out about Pinto Lake — it was everything she wanted: a family-oriented park with facilities for fishing, boating, camping and wind surfing, a cross between surfing and sailing.

There was another stroke

of luck for Ms. McQuade. Representatives of Public Land Management, which had been managing the park since last spring, told her they wanted to get out. Ms. McQuade didn't waste any time in approaching the city and getting the new management contract, which began Jan. 1.

"I hadn't done any research (on finding a park)," she said. "It was just lucky that I found out about it."

There's a business angle to Ms. McQuade's plans for

wind surfing. The firm she owns, Windsurfing, Inc. markets wind surfing equipment as well as managing parks.

Wind surfing rigs (a surfboard and a sail) are available for rent now, and lessons will soon be offered. A half-dozen rigs will be available at first, but Ms. McQuade hopes eventually to have about 20.

"The wind surfing has to come after we get organized," said Ms. McQuade, who notes that the park is trying to get the

word out that camping (in recreational vehicles) is legal again. (The city banned such camping last spring, then reinstated it effective Jan. 1.)

Taking care of the day-to-day operation of the park is Dick Ewart, who spent five years as a ranger in Yosemite National Park.

"The word got around that camping had been stopped," Ewart said. "Now I'm trying to get the word out that we've got it again." There are 34 spaces at the park.

Until the city imposed an entrance fee for the park last spring, there had been some problems with rowdiness. (The fee was originally charged every day, but is now collected only on weekends and holidays.)

"I haven't had any problems," Ewart said. "Some people come up and say they just want to drive around. I tell them they can — if they pay the \$2 per car charge."

The presence of a reserve policeman on weekends is a deterrent to anybody who might want to cause trouble, Ewart said.

"About 95 percent of the people are glad to pay the \$2," Ewart said.



Pat McQuade and Dick Ewart are running Pinto Lake park.