

# LANG

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— started his career on Santa Margarita Lake, a park in San Luis Obispo County. He later worked for the city of Gilroy as a parks supervisor before coming to Santa Cruz as the Parks and Recreation Department's open space ranger. He was eventually promoted to the Water Department's chief ranger.

Chris Berry, Santa Cruz's watershed compliance manager, said Lang has performed superbly.

"He was an exemplary chief ranger who would attend to all issues — be they lost children, trespassing motorcyclists, illicit camps, extreme weather events, requests for trips across the lake for tours or monitoring, special events coordination, or just someone in need of some insider fishing tips," Berry said. And he did it "with enthusiasm, courtesy and a friendly demeanor fitting of the position," Berry

added.

Lang's last day is Dec. 30, though with the Loch Lomond Recreational Area closed for the winter, he is taking the next two weeks off. He and wife Cirila have lived at the ranger's residence during his tenure and are moving to Los Osos, near Morro Bay, to be closer to his mother.

Besides the stark beauty, Lang said he will miss seeing the diverse wildlife around the reservoir, which was formed more than 50 years ago by the damming of Newell Creek. There are all manner of herons, grebes and osprey, and the lake is home to trout, bluegill and the occasional catfish.

In May, the City Council approved a recreation plan designed to increase use of the park after a sharp decline in visitors prompted by a state prohibition of private boats to block invasive species. Boaters can rent boats or store their own at Loch Lomond just for use at the lake, but the new recreation plans also call for kayak and canoe rental, summer cam-

pus and more hiking trails.

## LAKE STILL LOW

As Lang departs, the reservoir is two-thirds full, its lowest point in 16 years. Layers of exposed sediment near the shoreline and tree stumps that haven't seen daylight for some time offer silent testimony to dry conditions seen throughout California.

In normal and wet years, the lake is only tapped from June to October. But after two consecutive years with low rainfall, stream flows remain low in the San Lorenzo River, the city's primary source of water supply. Water managers also are faced with reducing diversions from North Coast streams to meet mandates by state and federal fisheries managers to boost habitat for endangered fish species.

Seasonal rainfall in the city's watershed currently measures 1.3 inches; 7.3 inches is the normal level at this time of year. As a result, the city has extended water restrictions that were set to expire in late October.

## BIOGRAPHY

SCOT LANG

**OCCUPATION:** Chief ranger for the Santa Cruz Water Department, overseeing Loch Lomond Reservoir and Recreation Area; retiring Dec. 30

**AGE:** 55

**RESIDENCE:** Inside Loch Lomond Recreation Area, Lompico

**EDUCATION:** Graduate of Morro Bay High School and Cuesta College, San Luis Obispo

**FAMILY:** Wife Cirila

The Water Department expects to update the supply outlook for 2014, as well as give details of a master conservation master plan, in January. For information on Loch Lomond and conservation, visit [www.surfcitysaves.com](http://www.surfcitysaves.com).

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