

Memorandum

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Fisheries Management, Region 5,
Long Beach

Date: September 25, 1981

From : Department of Fish and Game - Glenn Black, Fishery Biologist, Chino Fisheries Base

Subject: Transplant of Desert Pupfish from San Felipe Creek to Palm Canyon Refugium,
Anza-Borrego Desert State Park

On September 17, 1981, 77 desert pupfish were transferred from aquaria at Chino Fisheries Base to the newly concrete-lined refugium pond at Palm Canyon within Anza-Borrego Desert State Park. These fish had been rescued from intermittent pools along San Felipe Creek on August 11, 1981.

The water in Palm Canyon pond was aged for three weeks after relining and emergent and submergent aquatic plants had been introduced prior to the introduction of the San Felipe Creek fish. In addition, two desert pupfish from the Visitor Center Pond at Anza-Borrego had been placed in a small mesh wire enclosure and put in the Palm Canyon pond 72 hours prior to the introduction of San Felipe Creek fish. These fish did fine and were removed prior to the introduction of the 77 San Felipe Creek fish. There was no observed mortality of these fish after their introduction.

On September 21, 1981, an additional 310 desert pupfish were acquired from San Felipe Creek and transported to Palm Canyon pond where they were introduced after being acclimatized to the water at Palm Canyon. Twelve fish died enroute to Palm Canyon but none died after placement in the pond.

A total of 375 desert pupfish have been introduced into palm Canyon refugium pond from San Felipe Creek. This represents the first refugium for San Felipe Creek fish that we have. Should it happen that we lose the population within the creek we will still have sufficient numbers in Palm Canyon to restock the creek. Pupfish should do well in the pond because it was redesigned prior to concrete lining specifically for them to include an extensive shallow sand spawning shelf. It should be emphasized that the genetic purity of this population can best be maintained at Palm Canyon by not allowing introductions of desert pupfish from other areas.

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I would like to thank Jim Hendrickson, Mark Jorgenson, Ken Smith, and all the other Anza-Borrego State Park people for their splendid cooperation in this project. I would like to also commend the YCC crews for the great job they did in reconstructing and lining the pond.

Glenn Black
Glenn Black (bw)
Fishery Biologist

GB:bw

cc: Keith Moore
Larry Bottroff
Capt. Laret (San Diego)
Anza-Borrego State Park