

## - Region II

## Letter to WCB Regarding Schmidell Lake Dam, El Dorado County

The attached draft touches on a growing problem, the upkeep of the 30 some-odd stream-flow and lake-level maintenance dams built with WCB funds in the high-Sierra of Region 2 back about 15 to 20 years ago. The dams have been remarkably successful in filling their purpose, and have been warmly praised by conservation groups and recreationists in general. We intend to see that they are kept serviceable by repairing them when necessary. The question is who should pay for the cost which we estimate will run around \$2000 to \$5000 annually.

Because these dams were funded by the WCB a good many years ago, they might be willing to pay for the necessary repair work. The favorable publicity this would generate could considerably bolster the WCB image among those groups who recreate in the high country. However, if the WCB doesn't want to get involved in this, we are prepared to request funds via the usual budgetary route in our Region 2 operations. In any event, regardless of the source of funds, we have a trained man to supervise the work and can hire a reliable stone mason to estimate costs and scope of needed repairs and do the work.

We would appreciate having this matter clarified.

Ben Glading  
Regional Manager

Encl.

JHR:ilw

Wildlife Conservation Board

Schmidell Lake, El Dorado County, Stream Flow Maintenance Dam

The dam was constructed in August 1950 under the WCB #1 project in Desolation Valley Wild Area. The type of construction is rock masonry. A 12-inch Calco #101 Slide headgate valve was installed for water releases. Schmidell Lake is tributary to the Rubicon River and is located in T13N, R16E, S33 MDBM. The cost of construction in 1950 was \$2357.64.

This dam was inspected by Region 2 personnel and the mortar was found to be largely deteriorated in most of the dam. The valve is inoperable due to loose rock falling into the valve well. The rock on the top of the dam is all loose, and there is seepage all along the face of the dam. Repairs may require rebuilding of the entire structure. If so, and in the light of price increases during the past 20 years, costs can be expected to be greater than the original ones. A reliable stone mason, will be asked to inspect the dam as soon as he can reach it next summer and give us an estimate of costs. At this time we would appreciate having an expression from the Board concerning availability of funds for this purpose. Corrective work will be scheduled next autumn (1970) after water level in the lake reaches its lowest point.

If the Board is not inclined to fund this type of repair work we will be required to budget for it and do the work in 1971.

Enclosed are four pictures that show part of the deterioration of the masonry and the seepage on the face of the dam.

It is our recommendation that money be allotted for the repair of this stream flow maintenance dam.

*1957, Ft. Verde County, Sonoran Lake, Letter to WCE regarding  
Sonoran Lake Dam, 1950-51, 1952-53, 1954-55*

Director

April 13, 1970

*125 F. El Dorado County, Schmidell Lake. Letter to RCB regarding  
Schmidell Lake Dam. 1970 0413. 1970*  
- Region II

Letter to WCB Regarding Schmidell Lake Dam, El Dorado County

A letter requesting a decision on the funding of monies for major repair work on Schmidell Lake Dam, El Dorado County was sent to you on February 26, 1970. The dam was built with WCB funds. To date, no reply has been received.

We would appreciate an early reply so that necessary repairs may be made as soon as possible.

Ben Glading  
Regional Manager

JER:ilw

*Handwritten signature*

