

Memorandum

Date : JUN 29 1990

To : James D. Messersmith
Regional Manager
Region 2
Department of Fish and Game
1701 Nimbus Road, Suite A
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

From : Department of Water Resources

Subject : Schmidell Dam, No. 1-29
El Dorado County
Big Downey Lake Dam, No. 1-24
Nevada County

Byron - TAA

In his recent inquiry regarding scheduling of repairs and stability reinforcement to the Lake Schmidell and the Big Downey Lake Dams, Area Engineer Gerard Hayes was advised by Glen Swanson of Department of Fish and Game's Engineering Staff that those repairs may be put off again as they were last year. The combination of spill, logs battering the crest section and freeze thaw action on the mortar bonding these rock masonry structures, causes significant deterioration each year. The cumulative number of rocks missing from the faces and crests of both dams over recent years and the leakage through both dams has increased to a point of concern.

In its present condition, major overtopping of the crest section at Big Downey could fail this dam and threaten loss of life in the compounds immediately below the dam. In addition to the deteriorated rock masonry the outlet control at Schmidell is unsatisfactory. We consider the approved repairs to both these structures are necessary from a dam safety standpoint before the coming winter season.

Please advise us by July 13, 1990 of your plans for repairing these dams.

If you have any questions contact Gerard Hayes at (916) 323-5366 or Anthony Diler at (916) 323-5300.

Donald H. Ballitt

for Vernon H. Persson, Chief
Division of Safety of Dams

cc: Glen Swanson
Department of Fish and Game
Engineering Section
1416 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

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Memorandum

To : Mr. James D. Messersmith
Regional Manager
Region 2

Date : July 5, 1990

From : Department of Fish and Game - Engineering

Subject: Memorandum from the Division of Safety of Dams, Dated June 29, 1990

Mr. Glen Swanson has advised me that there seems to be a misunderstanding as to why the Department of Fish and Game did not make any repairs to the Big Downey and Schmidell Dams in 1989. The Division of Safety of Dams did not approve our applications for the repairs until February 1, 1990 for Big Downey Dam and March 15, 1990 for Schmidell Dam. Therefore, no repairs could proceed in 1989.

In agreement with Mr. Swanson, the lower than normal water level of these reservoirs this year makes this an ideal year to complete the repairs since water control required during construction would be minimal.

If any engineering assistance is needed prior to commencing the construction, please contact Glen Swanson, Project Engineer, at 327-7666.



Larry L. Nelson
Chief Engineer

cc: Vernon H. Persson, Chief
Division of Safety of Dams
P.O. Box 942836
Sacramento, CA 94236-0001

NELSON:rb

Mr. Vernon H. Persson, Chief
Division of Safety of Dams
P.O. Box 942836
Sacramento, CA 94236-0001

July 18, 1990

- Region 2

Schmidell Dam, No. 1-29, El Dorado County, Big Downey Lake Dam,
No. 1-24, Nevada County

The Department of Fish and Game (DFG) has developed a schedule for repair work on Schmidell Lake, El Dorado County, and Big Downey Lake, Nevada County. We plan to begin construction on Big Downey Lake on August 27, 1990 and Schmidell Lake on September 7, 1990.

If you require additional information regarding this project, please contact Mr. James Ryan, Associate Fishery Biologist, or Mr. William Somer, Fishery Biologist, telephone (916) 355-7090.

COPY Original Signed By
Patrick O'Brien

James D. Messersmith
Regional Manager

bc: Mr. G. Swanson, Engineering
Mr. J. Hiscox
Wdn. R. Prosser

WLS:ds