

Caution For Edson Lake Is Urged

GEORGETOWN, El Dorado Co. — A calm voice pleading for time has broken through the din created by pro and con factions on the proposed subdivision at Lake Edson near here.

The plea, from Dr. David Rodney Hadden of Berkeley, a Lake Edson landowner, is directed to both sides of the ecological dispute involving charges and denials of potential pollution.

Both sides hope for early decisions from agencies having control over the destiny of the Stumpy Meadows site abutting the east shore of Lake Edson. The Boise Cascade Corp. hopes to develop 1,580 acres there. Opponents want to keep it a wilderness.

Hadden, with Dr. Wallace Robert Lawson, practices obstetrics and gynecology in Berkeley. In a letter pleading for persons involved to be patient and not push for hasty decisions, Hadden said that "we are the only private noncorporation landowners adjacent to this project" proposed for Stumpy Meadows.

"We have been amazed at the pressure brought to bear on the Georgetown Public Utility District for a 'hurry up' decision by the Planning Commission of El Dorado County and the project developers themselves," Hadden wrote.

"We have emphasized the need for careful, thorough and complete study of a complex situation, now of national importance, in all future subdivision actions."

To back up his appeal to ease the pressure, Hadden called attention to a recommendation against haste by a professor of sanitary engineering at the University of California, Berkeley.

The professor, Dr. David T. Mason, late last month began an investigation of the proposed Stumpy Meadows project in relation to possible pollution. Following his initial studies at the site, Mason sent a letter to the Georgetown PUD which said, in part:

"... I am wholly unconvinced by the data and my observations that the development planned would not cause eutrophication and its attendant management problems. The developer attempts to make a case on the slimmest of data and assumptions.

"One would expect this developer, particularly because of recent experiences in the Tahoe area, to be sensitive to these problems and to have made the sort of study ... which could point with more exactness to potential ecological trouble.

"I would strongly urge all regulatory bodies to insist that an independent agency be engaged to determine

the eutrophication potential by up-to-date methods of proven scientific validity before proceeding with any sanctions of this development."

Hadden, in his letter, said that Mason early this year was offered "the position of full-time home ecologist for Boise Cascade Development Corp."

Adding his "amen" to the sanitation engineer's recommendations, the Berkeley gynecologist said:

"We are desperately asking for the essence of time before any final decision is made!"

Opponents of the project, organized as a Georgetown "vigilante" group, appear to be anxious for an early outright rejection of the Boise Cascade plan.

The opposition has expressed disappointment that in El Dorado County Planning Commission hearing on the plan was postponed from May 14 to May 28, then delayed again until June 25 at the request of the corporation.

The opponents claim Boise Cascade and the landowner Bacchi family tried to induce directors of the Georgetown PUD to approve the plans before they were cleared through state and federal agencies. The agencies include the US Bureau of Reclamation and the State Water Quality Control Board.