

ARAM HAROOTUNIAN
GENERAL CONTRACTOR

Box 239 - Tel. Kimball 4-2092

AL TAHOE (Lake Tahoe), CALIFORNIA

Jan 5 1960

Dear Mr. Montgomery

As you may already know, a logger polluted some of the water in the Truckee River and was heavily fined. I don't believe he dumped more than .0001 of the mud the Key dumped into the Truckee or the Lake. Our Lake from the Truckee to the State Line at most times ^{the summer of 1959} was a mud puddle, I am at a loss to understand how the law applies to one little fellow and not to the big fellow.

For 1960 I hope the Key can continue these operations, but keep these mud out of the faces of the many thousands of people, many women and children that will come to Lake Tahoe expecting to find the crystal water they knew to both in. Thank for your letter of Nov 3
Aram Harootunian

copies of Mr. Harootunian's letter and our letter of Jan. 22, 1960, were sent to Fraser and Calkins. (Mr. Harootunian's letter is attached to this letter.)

Region II
1001 Jedsmith Drive
Sacramento 19, California
January 22, 1960

*Pollution
Truckee - Tahoe*

Mr. Aram Harootunian
Box 239
Al Tahoe, California

Dear Mr. Harootunian:

This will acknowledge your letter of January 5, 1960, regarding the logging pollution of the Truckee River and pollution of Lake Tahoe by Tahoe Keys.

Your letter states: "I am at a loss to understand how the law applies to one little fellow and not to the big fellow." We can assure you that neither the law nor this agency distinguishes between the "big" or "little" fellow as far as violations are concerned. The law does, however, limit our jurisdiction in pollution cases and does not give this agency authority to issue citations for esthetic disturbances or creation of unsightly conditions. We must have clear-cut technical and scientific evidence that there is damage to the fishery in order to take action, and cannot base citations on unsubstantiated evidence or on emotional factors.

In the case of the pollution caused by Tahoe Keys, we recognize that there may be damage to the fishery; however, our surveys and close observation have not provided any clear evidence of damage other than esthetic damage.

As mentioned in our letter of November 3, 1959, the Keys did not cause any obstruction of the Truckee, did not cause siltation of spawning gravel, and our bioassays did not show any toxicity to fish. There may be repellent action, but the evidence on this is not clear. Under these conditions, we could not cite the Keys. We do feel that they caused an objectionable unsightliness but we have no jurisdiction over such matters.

In the case of the logging pollution which you mentioned, we had clear evidence of stream obstruction. The fact that the logger may be a smaller operator makes no difference whatsoever.

Thank you for your interest and concern in these matters.

Very truly yours,

COPY ORIGINAL SIGNED BY
ROBERT D. MONTGOMERY

Robert D. Montgomery, Regional Manager

WT/ss

cc: J. T. Leggett, E. Marsdon
J. Lesmon