

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

Region 2

1001 Jedsmith Drive

Sacramento, California 95819



August 16, 1978

Mr. Chuck Watson
EDAW, Inc.
50 Green Street
San Francisco, California 94111

Dear Mr. Watson:

The Department of Fish and Game has made a preliminary appraisal of the two water development projects described in your letter of August 2, 1978. Both would improve the hydroelectric potential of SMUD's Upper American River Project (FERC 2101).

JONES FORK POWERHOUSE

The Jones Fork Powerhouse proposal would involve a tunnel from Icehouse Reservoir to the Jones Fork of Union Valley Reservoir. Tunnel spoil should be used on roads or other areas where it cannot wash into streams or cover critical wildlife habitat. The existing minimum flow schedule from Icehouse Reservoir should be maintained. Measures should be taken to prevent erosion of the Jones Fork arm during low reservoir stages, perhaps by using large boulders or rock from tunnel excavation. The one-mile long penstock should have under- or over-crossings to allow free movement of deer and other animals. Small releases for wildlife water should be investigated. The potential would exist to keep Union Valley Reservoir as full as practical year-round, thereby maximizing that lake's natural fishery. This would also entail greater fluctuations in Icehouse Reservoir, but it appears the greater fishery benefits realized at Union Valley would outweigh the losses. The Icehouse fishery is at present heavily supported by plants of catchable-sized trout. Provided soil erosion was minimized, the proposed transmission line would not have detrimental, and may have beneficial, impacts on fish and wildlife.

SOUTH FORK RUBICON DIVERSION

The proposed diversion of the upper South Fork Rubicon River into Loon Lake may have a number of fish and wildlife impacts. Your study of the site should include a flow vs fish habitat analysis to determine the fish flow release necessary to maintain the existing trout fishery in the South Fork, down to Robbs Peak forebay. For planning purposes at this time, we suggest a minimum

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flow release of 10 cfs or the natural flow, if less. This flow bypass should be able to be passed through a pipe from above the diversion pool to allow removal of silt from the diversion reservoir without silting the fish flow release. Construction of the diversion dam and canal or pipeline should be done in a manner which minimizes sedimentation of the South Fork and Loon Lake. The canal or pipeline should not be a barrier to animal movement and should have turnouts to create wet meadows to compensate for unavoidable wildlife habitat loss associated with the project.

The Department of Fish and Game would be pleased to assist you in refining the fish and wildlife impacts of these projects. Our contact person should continue to be Fred Meyer (916-445-0889). We appreciate the early involvement in planning so that fish and wildlife needs may be adequately considered.

Sincerely,

COPY ORIGINAL SIGNED BY
J. D. WICKUSICK

FOR

Robert W. Lassen
Regional Manager
Region 2

cc: Mr. Scott Cressey, WESCO, San Rafael, CA
Mr. Mike Henry, Eldorado National Forest, Placerville, CA

bc: J. Richard
F. Fary
D. Fowler
R. Elliott
ESB

FAM:ilw