



STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Department of Fish and Game

722 Capitol Avenue
Sacramento 14

February 8, 1961

Mr. Robert Letts
Pacific Gas & Electric Company
245 Market Street
San Francisco 6, California

Dear Bob:

This will confirm the information I gave you by telephone yesterday concerning the fish kill on the Upper Truckee River last weekend.

Incidentally, we received our first letter concerning the kill from a contractor who discovered the situation Sunday, February 5.

Don Kelley, a fisheries biologist from Region 2, surveyed the stream February 6 and estimated that between 7,500 and 12,500 brown and rainbow trout have been killed. Approximately an equal number of dace, a rough fish, also were destroyed.

Kelley contacted the Tahoe Tribune and the Tahoe Sierra News giving them the information that unauthorized persons had opened the PG&E flash boards, resulting in an outflow from Echo Lake of 10 second feet into Echo Creek and subsequently into the Upper Truckee and Lake Tahoe. Dead fish were visible for the entire course and into Lake Tahoe.

On Monday, February 13, a meeting of our fisheries people, including those who are just starting a research and evaluation project of the fisheries in Lake Tahoe, will be held to determine what steps will be taken for replanting the Upper Truckee. We will inform you of our plans.

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On another subject, someone asked us recently if we were familiar with PG&E's program for keeping their power line rights-of-way clear in Northern California. We understand that some sprays are used and the question as to whether these are herbicides or soil sterilants was posed.

As you know, cleared rights-of-way which also are allowed to sustain annual new growths of browse and grazing material are most beneficial, particularly to deer. If you have any information you can give me on this matter, I would appreciate it.

Sincerely,

COPY ORIGINAL SIGNED BY
ROBERT D. CALKINS

Robert D. Calkins
Conservation Program Officer

RDC:jm

cc: Mr. Shannon
Mr. Montgomery, Region 2

bc: Mr. Macgregor
Mr. Calhoun

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