

STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME  
INTRAOFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

DATE: February 20, 1961

TO: Robert Montgomery, Regional Manager, Region 2

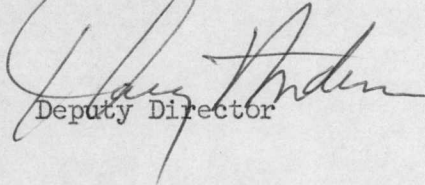
FROM: Deputy Director

SUBJECT: Fish Kill in Upper Truckee River - Feb. 3 and 4, 1961.

The Director and I read your February 7, 1961 letter on the above subject with great interest.

The last paragraph on page 2 of the letter states that you wrote to Mr. Coffey informing him that the rotenone should be detoxified by January 1, 1961. When was this letter written to Mr. Coffey and what was the basis for making the prediction? There is no indication in the report, that I could find, that tests were conducted to ascertain the toxicity before this statement was made.

I believe that wherever possible, after a lake has been treated, tests should be conducted to determine the toxicity of the lake before the introduction of fish.

  
Deputy Director

cc: Inland Fisheries Branch

RRF. El Dorado, Upper Truckee River Fish Kill.  
19610302, 998

March 2, 1961

Harry Anderson, Deputy Director

Robert D. Montgomery, Regional Manager, Region 2

Fish Kill in Upper Truckee River - February 3 and 4, 1961

The letter to Mr. Coffey, District Manager of the Pacific Gas and Electric Company in Placerville regarding the toxicity of Echo Lake water was written on November 1, 1960.

The estimate for detoxification time was based on Wyoming's study "Study of Techniques Involving Fish Toxicants". Project number FW-3-R-4, Work Plan number 9, Job number 2F. Their data indicates that at a temperature of 50°F it takes the rotenone about 26 days to dissipate. Assuming the data is correct it appeared safe to predict that the Echo Lake water would be detoxified at the end of 67 days.

We are presently conducting extensive tests on water taken at numerous points and depths from Echo Lake. If necessary we will detoxify the water flowing from the lake this spring.

We installed a screen at the mouth of the Upper Truckee River yesterday to prevent any early migrating rainbow from moving into the stream from Lake Tahoe.

Robert D. Montgomery  
Regional Manager  
Region 2  
JBR:DWK:sr  
CC - Inland Fisheries