

Memorandum

To : Fisheries Management

Date : March 26, 1963

From : **Department of Fish and Game**Subject: Upper Truckee River - Erosion Control, El Dorado County.

On 3/22/63 I discussed with Mr. Paul Brace, El Dorado County Director of Planning, various problems in connection with the above subject.

The existing County river easement now in force applies to property to be subdivided. Over the past two years the wording of the easement has been changed so one would have to inspect the property record of each landowner to determine exactly what type of easement applies. At our request the County added the words "erosion control" to the easement purposes.

Although the easement does allow public agencies to carry out erosion control work along the stream bank, it does not prevent the property owner from mining his river gravel, filling, draining, or otherwise altering his stream bank property.

Brace agreed that property owners in the meadow areas, from the golf course downstream, will have to undertake some form of drainage improvement in the development of their property. Currently much of this is under agricultural zoning, but it will not remain so even though this may be the desire of the planning commission. Of course, drainage work could have a major influence on the stream insofar as its value as a spawning area is concerned.

Brace further agreed that the only practical way to reserve the fisheries value of the Upper Truckee would be through purchase or some type of easement. He recommended a scenic easement along the river. This would be in the interest of the landowner as it would protect the value of his land at higher elevations which is more suitable for development and give him a return on his investment in stream bank property. The money for the purchase of a stream bank easement would probably have to be sources other than the county.

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Also briefly discussed were the proposed major highway development and airport improvement in the lower section of the river. This work will involve numerous stream crossings and a general disturbance of the stream of a temporary nature spaced over an extended period.

In general, the discussion with Brace confirmed my previous conclusion that an active erosion control project on the Upper Truckee River financed by the Wildlife Conservation Board as previously recommended by the Region would not achieve the desired results. Our approach now should be to urge the County or State to purchase an easement on the land itself and dedicate it to fisheries purposes. When this is done, an erosion control project would then be feasible.



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RDB/lk

Thermopsis: R. 107m