

Memorandum

To : Chief of Operations

Date: December 5, 1972

From : Department of Fish and Game

Subject: East Park Reservoir, Colusa County

Subject 60 year old, 1,800 surface reservoir is operated by the Orland ~~Irrigation~~^{water Users} ~~District~~^{Association}, but the land, access and recreation are controlled by the Bureau of Reclamation. The reservoir was recently drained for dam repair and we chemically treated for rough fish control. This water has produced good warmwater fishing over many years, and provided we reintroduce a warmwater game fish broodstock it will return to production.

The Bureau of Reclamation has the authority to develop and operate recreation facilities but not the funds. They are optimistic they will receive the funds in a year or two. In the interim, they are making annual contracts with a private party (Mr. Howard Conley) to operate the recreation program (access, fishing, camping and boating). The facilities at the reservoir are few and primitive. Mr. Conley, under the terms of his short term lease, charges \$2/vehicle/day for all services rendered.

Recently we inspected the reservoir with Bureau officials, Mr. Conley and Al Rutsch of Wildlife Conservation Board. It appears a Wildlife Conservation Board boat ramp and facility development are not practical due to the unreliability of reservoir water levels and the nature of the access fee charged. Reduction of the access fee to \$1.00 does not seem possible due to the physical layout of the area. Two points of entry are maintained and unit costs are high. According to the Bureau, Mr. Conley netted about \$4,000 for his labor in 1971.

The immediate and essential problem is to reintroduce the broodstock of game fish (bass, sunfish and catfish). It is imperative this be done within the next four months as the fish become available. We have discussed this matter with Alex Calhoun in connection with the Commission's policy of charging only \$1.00 for access to those waters the Department plants fish. Alex Calhoun expressed the thought our planting of the warmwater broodstock on a one time basis would be permissible. The Commission policy was directed to the annual plants of hatchery fish.


28?

December 5, 1972


The Bureau of Reclamation would like to make their agreement with Mr. Conley for 1973 this week. With your approval we will informally indicate to the Bureau (Mr. Larry ~~Swan~~^{Swan} and/or Mr. Bishop) that we will plant the warmwater broodstock in the December, 197~~2~~³ - April, 197~~3~~⁴ period as they become available from rescue and procurement operations.

As a general guideline, we should urge the Bureau to obtain funds for facility developments and enter into the operation of a recreation program at East Park. If they become involved, this will better guarantee the maintenance of an optimum minimum pool; the key to good fishing at East Park.



 Robert W. Lassen
Regional Manager
Region 2

APPROVED: _____


(Chief of Operations)

DATE: _____

12/8/72

cc: Inland Fisheries Branch
Al Rutsch, Wildlife Conservation Board