

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

NINTH STREET
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95814

(916) 445-3531



October 17, 1977

*wlc
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Code	Action	Surname & Date
450		<i>Schaefer</i>
700		
116		

*COPY - Willow
Copy to 700 p-26*

Mr. M. A. Catino
Assistant Regional Director
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
2800 Cottage Way
Sacramento, CA 95825

Dear Mr. Catino:

In reply to your letter of September 29, 1977, we are sorry to hear your agency does not have the authority to spend money to mitigate for the loss of fishing and recreation values resulting from the sale of minimum pool water. The fishing and recreation programs for the three reservoirs on Stony Creek are a near total loss and short term corrective action does not appear to be feasible.

However, rather than belabor this issue, it would be more meaningful to address the long term and essential problem of these reservoir fisheries which is the maintenance of adequate minimum pools. Your offer to coordinate Orland Project storage operations would be meaningful in this regard.

In the past at our request you have arranged for the transfer of Black Butte Reservoir storage to East Park and Stony Gorge reservoirs for the purposes of maintaining minimum pools. With the return of normal runoff we would like to see this procedure formalized and augmented. One method would be to serve a portion of the Orland District lands with your Tehama-Colusa Canal water. There are probably a number of options to this approach.

We suggest that your office in coordination with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Corps of Engineers and the Orland District prepare the necessary economic feasibility and operation studies leading to the long term enhancement of the Stony Creek Reservoir fisheries.

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filed
10/21/77*

Sincerely,

[Signature]
FOR Director

cc: Colonel Donald M. O'Shei
District Engineer
Corps of Engineers

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November 11, 1977

Mr. E. C. Fullerton, Director
State Department of Fish and Game
1416 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Fullerton:

In reply to your October 17, 1977 letter, we recognize and share your concern over the loss of fishing and recreation programs on the three reservoirs on Stony Creek. This continuing drought has made it most difficult to provide water for exchange in the various reservoirs where under normal conditions, project flexibility would be permitted.

The spring meetings held at Willows and Orland since 1970, with your agency and others, have been an excellent format to discuss the operation plans and problems of the three reservoirs. We are planning another meeting this March to again discuss the operating plans for 1978.

Your letter suggests that a procedure be formalized for transferring Black Butte water to East Park and Stony Gorge, for the purposes of maintaining minimum pools during normal years. Our May 10, 1974 letter to your Region 2 Manager, Mr. Robert Lessen, (copy enclosed) indicated that if possible during that year, we would maintain a minimum storage in both East Park and Stony Gorge of 10,000 acre-feet through an exchange with Black Butte water. We expect that when normal conditions return, we will again be able to maintain these minimum pools until such time as the marketing program for Central Valley Project (CVP) water requires that this water from Black Butte be delivered to CVP contractors. This exchange, or some part of it, may be allowed up to the year 1990.

We would be happy to meet with your staff to discuss these plans. Please contact Mike Schaefer at 484-4670, of our Recreation and Wildlife Resources Branch, for a time that is convenient for your staff to meet.

Sincerely yours,

151 M. A. Catino

Enclosure

**Copy to: Colonel Donald M. O'Shei
District Engineer
U.S. Corps of Engineers
650 Capitol Mall
Sacramento, CA 95814
w/enclosure**

**cc: Proj. Const. Engr., Willows w/enc.
MP-116 w/enc.
MP-710 w/enc.**

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