September 26, 1957

Harry Anderson, Administrative Officer

Regional Manager, Region II

PROPOSED RECREATIONAL AREA ON LETTS CREEK, COLUSA COUNTY

On July 1, 1957, Bob Dasmann, Supervisor of the Mendocino National Forest, conducted a tour of the Letts Creek area in Colusa County to inspect the site of a potential recreational development. Assemblyman Lloyd Lowrey, Don Kelley of the Region II Fisheries staff, and I accompanied Mr. Dasmann on the trip.

The Forest Service proposes, and we concur, that a dam be constructed on the lower end of a wet meadow on Upper Letts Creek. The fill-type dam advocated by this agency would create an impoundment of some 33.2 surface acres. The storage capacity of the reservoir will be approximately 319 acre-feet to elevation 116 on attached map (16' dam). The primary purpose of the project is lake recreation, including fishing.

The people of Colusa and Glenn Counties have expressed a great deal of interest in the project. This is to be expected since there are few waters near the west side of the Sacramento Valley where the types of recreation afforded by lakes can be enjoyed.

Both Assemblyman Lloyd Lowrey and Senator Louis Sutton are actively supporting the project and are anxious to have it submitted to the Wildlife Conservation Board at an early date. We will be expected to furnish a progress report at the next Board meeting in late October or early November.

The Forest Service engineer has surveyed the meadow and prepared preliminary maps showing the dam site and the reservoir area. There was considerable delay in the transmission of the plans from the Forest Service to us. Although we expected to receive the prints shortly after the meeting on July 1, they were not delivered to the Region II office until September 13, 1957.

From an inspection of the site and a study of the plans supplied by the Forest Service, we believe that the Letts Creek project has exceptional merit. Therefore, we request that the engineering section of the Department of Fish and Game undertake a survey of the proposed recreational development to determine the feasibility of the project and to provide plans, cost estimates, detailed cross sectional surveys of the dam site with necessary borings, and plans for a spillway to divert surplus water to Lilly Pond and Lower Letts Meadow, two other smaller lakes that would be enhanced by this project.

Transmitted, herewith, are the drawings supplied by the Forest Service. The following additional data pertinent to the project were also furnished:

Soil type: (visible and probably through entire dam site) sheetiron type.

Annual rainfall: 47 inches @ Cooley's Place near site, exclusive of snow. This is high snow belt also.

Estimated annual runoff: 366 acre-feet per year.

Drainage area: 300 acres.

Inflow from springs: (outside flowage area) 129,760 gal. per day - .2 cfs. (surface inflow measured).

Present outflow: 64,800 g.p.d. - .1 cfs.

Evaporation rate: 164 acre-feet per year, or 60" per year.

It is estimated by the Department of Water Resources that the flooding of this meadow will cut down the transpiration rate, as well as utilize springs known to be, and others believed to be located in the meadow itself, so there will be a considerable net gain in available water over the present situation.

The water rights for this area are controlled by the Orland Irrigation District. Mr. Dasmann has conferred with the Water Rights Board and has been assured by it that there will be no trouble in this regard.

Your early action to have necessary engineering studies completed will be appreciated. Our regional personnel will be glad to assist as much as possible.

Robert D. Montgomery
Regional Manager

Encls.
DWK/RDM/ss
cc: E. Horn
W. Dry

Mill Valley Lake (proposed)

1. Surface area — 10.67 acres
2. Drainage area — 107.02 acres
3. Average rainfall — 54.84 inches

Stonyford Cooley Ranch 21 year record
24.77" min. (1939)
96.26" max. (1958)

Average $107 \times \frac{54.84}{12} =$ 488.99 acre feet

Minimum $107 \times \frac{24.77}{12} =$ 220.86 acre feet

4. Storage
Est. average depth - 5 feet
5 x 10.67 — 53.35 acre feet

Note:
1. Lake surface area may be slightly more or less - survey will determine.
2. Rainfall probably is slightly higher as records were made in T16N R7W Sec. 8 on the eastern slope approximately 4-1/2 miles south east.
3. Storage capacity is not known as survey is to be done to determine - area is taken from topo map and average depth estimated.