

March 26, 1979

TO: Phil Baker

From: J. Rowell, Jr.

Subject: Stream Clearance, East & Middle Branch,
Russian Gulch

In August 1978 the lower one mile sections of the East and Middle Branches, Russian Gulch were walked out by Rowell and Snyder. Five log jams (all complete barriers) and two rock falls were found in the Middle Branch. Of the 1.6 miles suitable for fish habitat only .3 miles are presently available. It will take a CDC (California Department of Corrections) crew using hand labor and chain saws and estimated ~~ten~~ 15 working days to remove these jams.

On the East Branch, seven jams (5 complete barriers) were found. Only .3 miles of the total 2.6 miles available fish habitat are accessible now. It is estimated that CDC crew will need ~~14~~ 21 working days to remove these jams. Travel time from the Black Mt. Conservation Camp to the project is approximately one hour round trip.

This project will consist of removing log jams and modifying the two existing falls. Most of the log jams will be removed by cutting logs into short sections and either placed above the thigh water mark or burned on a gravel bar. The ashes will also be deposited above the high water mark. One jam on the Middle branch and two on the East branch can be more efficiently broken up using explosives. The CDC crew can then dispose of the debris in the regular way. In a telephone conversation, Mr. Toney Duckworth, CDF supervisor at the Black Mt. Conservation Camp, indicated it would be early November before a CDC crew would be available for stream clearance work.

The CDC crew is available at no cost to, the Dept. of Fish and Game for labor. However, it has been requested that we replace some cutter bars and chains for the chain saws used by the crew.

Land owners, for the most part, are in favor of this project. Written permission forms and a letter of explanation will be sent to each land owner as soon as the forms are available.

We received a verbal OK from the Regional Water Quality Control Board after giving them a slide presentation of the project. However, we will send them a copy of our project and a request for a categorical exemption from CEQA.