

Memorandum

To : FILES

Date: June 13, 1974

From : **Department of Fish and Game**

Subject: Calabazas Creek, Sonoma County

On June 7, 1974, I met with Mr. Roland Todd to review the problem of riparian water diversion on Calabazas Creek.

The meeting was cordial and informative. In general, we reviewed the background leading to Mr. Todd's letter, his solution, and later spot-checked a number of areas along the stream.

The problem began in early spring when the stream behind Mr. Todd's home became unexpectedly intermittent. A field reconnaissance revealed the cause was a riparian diversion in the headwater. Mr. Todd subsequently began a drive to obtain enough water to maintain a surface flow. Thus, his letter to our Director and others.

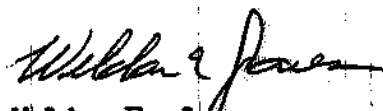
The problem has now been solved and the stream is flowing naturally. Mr. Todd recruited his neighbors and together they obtained legal council. The attorney wrote to the diverting landowner indicating action would be taken in court to apportion the streamflow if his excessive diversion was not stopped.

The diverter complied and now relies on an offstream well for his water needs.

Spot checks along Calabazas Creek reveal it to be one of the more important steelhead spawning and rearing areas within the Sonoma Creek drainage. A good population of juvenile steelhead are present. Some nongame fish, roach, however, are also present in the lower portion of the stream. Steelhead spawning and rearing areas appear to be above average for the drainage as a whole. The stream also supports a good vegetative canopy, one that is nearly complete. Streamflow was estimated at 2 cubic feet per second.

If this landowner resumes diverting all of the streamflow again, I recommend we apply 1602 to obtain bypass flows.

Subsequent to my return to the office, a copy of the booklet, "Anadromous Fishes of California" was sent to Mr. Todd as was requested.



Weldon E. Jones
Assistant Fishery Biologist
Region 3

WEJ:mb

Calabazas Creek Sonoma County

