

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF FISH AND GAME
INTEROFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

DATE 5 April 1946

FROM: Earl Leitritz

TO: Bureau of Fish Conservation

SUBJECT: Interview with Mr. Paul Walter, Sonoma, California

Dear Sirs:

I called at the home of Mr. Paul Walter, located on Caliente Creek near Boyes Springs, Sonoma County California on April 4, 1946.

Mr. Walter's conversation led off with complaints of the wanton destruction of adult steelhead which run up Caliente Creek to spawn. This destruction of spawning fish is by chronic violators, mischievous boys etc. The fish are dynamited, clubbed, speared and taken by all and any means. Mr. Walter stated that some of the spawning fish reach the upper stretches of the stream with considerable difficulty due to natural obstructions above the heavily poached areas. The resulting fingerlings from this spawning are caught and perish in the pot holes in the lower section of the stream which ceases to run on the surface during the summer months. Mr. Walter would like to construct a small pond on the property of a Mr. Sears on Sonoma Creek - then rescue these dying fingerlings - rear them and return a portion to the state. Keeping a certain percentage for his own disposal.

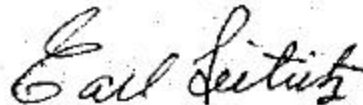
Mr. Walter is apparently quite wealthy and owns large holdings on the upper reaches of Caliente Creek. He proposes to build a sixty foot high dam of stone and concrete at a narrows in the canyon. He made informal application for permit to construct this dam at some state office, 425 -3rd Street, Santa Rosa, some time ago, but due to conditions occasioned by the war has not pushed this application. This proposed dam is to form a lake which will beautify the surroundings and around which he intends to build fifty elaborate homes. He stated that his engineers have been unable to find methods of constructing a fish ladder over his proposed dam and in lieu there of he proposes to place a spill gate in the dam in such a manner that the lake can be drawn down to stream bed level and the spawning fish allowed to run up to the headwaters of the stream. As soon as the run of fish is over the gates would be closed and the water again backed up in the lake.

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Interview with Mr. Paul Walter, Sonoma, California.

It was explained that the Division did not enter into agreements where by individuals rescued fish on a share crop basis, also that his application for construction of his dam would have to be cleared through regular channels. It was requested that when these millions of young steelhead began to perish in the lower portion of the stream - that he contact this office so effective rescue operations can be undertaken and the young fish saved - that these gross violations be reported to Mr. Shea, Game Warden at Santa Rosa, His reply to the suggestion of the Division rescuing the small fish was - What the hell - so you can haul them out of the country and stock other streams.

Yours truly,



Asst Spvrs of Hatcheries