

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
INTRAOFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

DATE

April 26, 1956

TO: Robert L. Jones, Regional Manager, Region III

FROM: Willis A. Evans, Fisheries Management Supervisor, Region III

SUBJECT: Pollution in Sonoma Creek - Sonoma County

On a field trip recently I noted that Sonoma Creek was being polluted with silt over a distance of some 3 or 4 miles. Upon tracing it to its source it proved to be a Corps of Engineers channel improvement project in the vicinity of Glen Ellen. Bulldozers were pushing huge quantities of soil from one side of the stream to the other despite the fact that a good stream flow was present and carrying a great deal of the silt away in suspension. This is no doubt causing considerable damage to the young steelhead which are just emerging from the gravel. The bulldozer operator when questioned informed me that the job has been in progress for the last three or four weeks.

Upon returning to the office I contacted Mr. Marston, Regional Supervisor of the San Francisco District for the Corps of Engineers. I expressed our concern over the damage being done to fish life by this project and requested further information. He informed me that only three more days of operation remained on this project. The work being carried on was part of their flood control stream channelization work. It appears that no action is therefore necessary at this time.

It is desirable, however, if we can prevent the recurrence of this sort of thing. I can see no reason why small projects of this type could not be handled during the summer and fall months when stream flows are at a low point and damage to fish life at a minimum. Might it not be in order for us to draft a letter to the Corps of Engineers and at least call this problem to the attention of administrators planning such projects.



Willis A. Evans
Fisheries Management Supervisor
Region III

WAE:dk

cc E. O. Berry