

**Memorandum**

To : Honorable E. C. Fullerton, Director  
 Department of Fish and Game  
 1416 Ninth Street  
 Sacramento, CA 95814

Attn: E. V. Toffoli

From : STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD

Subject: CARMEL RIVER, CALIFORNIA AMERICAN WATER WELLS

DATE	INITIAL	DATE
		AUG 04 1981
W. WOODWORTH		
A. GAWTHROP		
N. McCLINTOCK	VED	
J. WILLIAMS		AUG 5 1981
	M. P. W. M. D.	

Thank you for your memorandum dated July 8, 1981, concerning the proposed construction of water wells in the Carmel River. As outlined in your memo, the Department of Fish and Game (DFG) is concerned about the protection of a valuable steelhead fishery resource. Your letter requests that the Board determine if the proposed wells would pump underflow and thus require a water right permit from the Board.

On July 21, 1981 a meeting was held among representatives of the Board's staff, the California-American Water Company (Cal-Am), the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District (District), and Mr. John Turner of your Department. Mr. Turner identified two alternatives available to DFG:

1. Execution of an Agreement: The DFG, Cal-Am and District could execute an agreement that would define studies to be performed and specific measures to be taken to protect the fishery resource. Measures could include:
  - pumping schedules for all Cal-Am wells in the immediate vicinity of the Carmel River.
  - scheduled releases from upstream dams to maintain minimal flow rates during periods critical to steelhead migration.

Mr. Turner said that this would be his preferred alternative. It was agreed that another meeting would be held in the near future to discuss this alternative.
2. Determination of Underflow: Mr. Turner said that the DFG could petition the Board to make a determination on whether the proposed wells would pump underflow. If it were determined that the wells would draw from underflow, the DFG would recommend that the Board include terms in the water right permit that would protect the fishery resource. Mr. Turner said that this is a less desirable alternative.

My letter dated April 23, 1981, informed Cal-Am that the Board will take no further action at this time to investigate the lower Carmel River groundwater basin. In view of the discussions at the July 21, 1981 meeting, we believe that this is still the appropriate course of action. It is recommended that the DFG pursue the first alternative suggested by Mr. Turner. We believe that

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this is the preferred alternative since it provides the best prospect for near-term protection of the fishery resources and would not delay construction of the wells.

The question of underflow will need to be explored in detail at the time the District submits an application to the State Board to store water upstream or attempts to develop an additional water supply by alternative means. We recommend that the proposed agreement include the task of determining the limits of underflow and if any wells are pumping water that is from the underflow of the Carmel River. The Board would require that a water rights permit be obtained for such wells in accordance with the provisions of the Water Code.

If you have any questions, please call Mr. Ray Walsh, Chief of the Division of Water Rights, at (916) 920-6043.

**Original Signed By:**

Carla M. Bard  
Chairwoman

cc: California-American  
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