

STATE OF CALIFORNIA— THE RESOURCES AGENCY

GEORGE DEUKMEJIAN,  
Governor

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME  
POST OFFICE BOX 47  
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(707) 944-2011



March 30, 1989

Calvin Fong  
Regulatory Branch  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
211 Main Street  
San Francisco, CA 94105-1905

Dear Mr. Fong:

The Department of Fish and Game has reviewed the environmental assessment prepared by A. A. Rich and Associates for the Giacomini summer dam (PN 16700N63) on Lagunitas in Marin County.

We concur with Dr. Rich's assessment that the only significant potential impact of the Giacomini summer dam would be on the emigration of smolt steelhead trout or coho salmon. This impact could result from a slower emigration rate due to reduced water velocity through the impoundment or from a change in water temperature due to increased solar exposure of the impounded water.

We agree that the potential impacts of an alternative dam at the Genazzi site would be the same as the existing Giacomini dam. However, if the dam were of a type other than gravel there could be additional impacts. We would have serious concerns about the construction of a permanent sill across the stream, and would recommend against such a structure.

The studies proposed by Dr. Rich should help answer the remaining questions regarding the possible impacts of the Giacomini dam. Salmonid smolt trapping during emigration would define the timing of the migration and allow us to assess the impact of the dam on emigration. Sampling of fish populations within the impoundment behind the dam would determine whether or not salmonids use the impoundment for rearing during the summer.

Fish population sampling within the impoundment would also provide some insight into the subject of predation. While sampling for salmonids, any other species using the impoundment would also be captured. The only significant predator which could be encouraged by the construction of the impoundment would be largemouth bass. Bass are probably introduced to the stream during the spilling of Nicasio or Kent reservoirs. In previous electro-fishing surveys by the Department only a few largemouth bass have been captured in the impoundment.

Water temperature monitoring would determine the temperature suitability of the impoundment and the area downstream of the dam for salmonid rearing

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during the summer. It would provide information to determine the impact of the dam on stream temperature.

Our contact person for this project will continue to be Bill Cox, Fishery Biologist. He can be contacted at 707-823-1001.

Sincerely;

  
**Brian Hunter**  
**Regional Manager**  
**Region 3**