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Assembly California Legislature

EDWIN L. Z'BERG
MEMBER OF ASSEMBLY, NINTH DISTRICT
VICE CHAIRMAN
CIVIL SERVICE AND STATE PERSONNEL

OFFICE OF
UNDER SECRETARY

July 22, 1961

C
O
P
Y

Mr. Charles A. Connaughton
Regional Forester
U.S. Department of Agriculture
630 Sansome Street
San Francisco 11, California

Dear Mr. Connaughton:

You are of course aware of my recent suggestion to the Department of the Interior that the principal reservoirs being constructed in the Sierra Nevada mountains by the Sacramento Municipal Utility District, consisting of Ice House and Union Valley dams, be set aside as national recreation areas under the jurisdiction of the Department of the Interior. Since my suggestion was originally made I have received a response from the Secretary's office and have also received a copy of a letter written by Congressman Johnson to Mr. Richard McArdle, Chief of the Forest Service. Interior points out that although the National Park Service administers several such areas, it is reluctant to study the situation here is the Forest Service and the District are proceeding with plans in a satisfactory manner. Congressman Johnson suggested it might be unwise to transfer jurisdiction of these reservoir areas to Interior since they were located in the heart of the El Dorado National Forest, but asked for a report on

the program anticipated by the Forest Service.

I am not so much concerned with the question whether recreation should be handled by Interior or by the Forest Service as I am with the immediate necessity to make plans and to build facilities which will accomodate the thousands of visitors who are certain to go to this area in the next few years. The potentions of this magnificent area are tremendous.

The Distirct infirms me that it has already spent large sums of money in acquiring land around these reservoirs for strictly recreation purposes, in building roads which will make these areas accessible, in the construction of various facilities around Ice House dam, and in other ways. The District feels that it cannot justify further expenditures of any magnitude for purely recreation purposes. Additionally, it is of the opinion that the Forest Service is capable of doing an excellent job in this field. I share these views. This area will be used extensively by the public from all over the state and indeed the nation, as well as by people from Sacramento County. It would seem that SMUD has already made a sufficient contribution toward the recreational potential, particularly when, according to my understanding, most of the land involved is federally owned and plans are now under way to place essentially the entire setup under Forest Service jurisdiction.

Congressman Johnson requested Mr. McArdle for a report setting forth the specific plans of the Forest Service to handle recreation, and suggested that a copy of that letter be sent to me. I shall be happy if you can respond to that inquiry soon so that I may be informed of your program. If the Forest Service is prepared to proceed actively and

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promptly with the development of recreation and if it can work out a satisfactory program with the Utility District, I shall be glad to cooperate wholeheartedly with you in furthering a program by the Forest Service. May I expect to hear from you soon?

Very truly yours,

EDWIN L. Z'BERG

cc: Under Secretary James K. Carr
Congressmen Harold T. "Bizz" Johnson

EZ:lo



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

July 26, 1961

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Dear Mr. Z'berg:

I have received the copy of your July 22 letter to Mr. Charles A. Connaughton, Regional Forester at San Francisco, on the possible recreation area at Ice House and Union Valley dams. I appreciate your keeping me informed of developments.

Sincerely yours,

(sgd) Jim

James K. Carr
Under Secretary

Mr. Edwin L. Z'berg
Member of Assembly
California Legislature
State Capitol
Sacramento 14, California

FE Erikson

cc: National Park Service ✓
U/S Carr