



DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY AND GEOPHYSICS

BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA 94720

March 19, 1986

Memo To: Hazardous Waste Management Committee
Office of Environmental Health and Safety
Berkeley Campus

From: Luna B. Leopold, Chairman *Luna B. Leopold*
Department of Geology and Geophysics
Berkeley Campus

I am in receipt of the policy statement dated March 17, 1986, signed by the Chancellor concerning the Berkeley campus hazardous waste management policy.

For some years various professors and students on the campus have been measuring or studying the biologic life in Strawberry Creek as it flows through the Berkeley campus. In the last decade, all studies with which I am familiar have shown that the stream is polluted to the point that no insect life grows on the bed of the channel. This stands in marked contrast to the fact that well above the Haas Clubhouse the stream appears to be quite natural. Further, it is well known that in the early part of this century, salmon seasonally migrated up Strawberry Creek as far as the Faculty Club.

On the date of receiving the Chancellor's policy statement, the water flowing through the campus in Strawberry Creek turned a dark brown. All attempts made by me and my students to find out what outfalls into the Creek come from what buildings on the campus and the buildings up on the hill have been in vain.

It does not seem to be known whether the many times that the stream changes color in periods not associated with storms is contaminated with hazardous waste. However, it seems very appropriate, in light of the Chancellor's policy statement, that it be determined whether these chemicals or contaminants, dumped periodically into Strawberry Creek, are hazardous or not. They are certainly harmful to the biology of the stream.

I strongly suggest that the Office of Environmental Health and Safety take steps to have chemical or other necessary samples taken of the stream water under conditions when it is clear and under conditions when it is obviously contaminated with something dumped into the river and find out what those chemicals are and where they come from. The Office of Environmental Health and Safety seems to me to have the responsibility of obtaining or preparing a map of the campus, including the buildings up on the hill, to find out where the outfalls into Strawberry are located and from what rooms or buildings they emanate.