

From: Amy Peyton <Amy@uplandresources.com>
Sent on: Tuesday, September 7, 2021 4:34:10 PM
To: WB-DWR-MillDeerDrought <DWR-MillDeerDrought@Waterboards.ca.gov>
CC: Bailey Peyton <Bailey@uplandresources.com>; Amy Peyton <Amy@uplandresources.com>
Subject: Drought Emergency Regulation - Mill Creek

EXTERNAL:

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is being written in regard to the threat of stopping the flow of irrigation water from Mill Creek to our ranch in Los Molinos, CA. For as long as we have owned this ranch, we have never faced as dramatic of an issue as this potential crisis.

When my wife, Amy, and I purchased Mill Creek Ranch almost 10 years ago, we did so for the sole purpose of raising quality cattle. Our ranch provides the necessary watershed for over 20 miles of Mill Creek and we are proud to be great stewards of this property.

The purchase of this ranch was of interest to us due to the amount of senior water rights that were associated with the property. The ability to raise cattle for production is the only way this ranch is viable for us.

We are certainly aware of the extreme drought conditions which are occurring in California and we care greatly about the needs of all plants and animals including wildlife, fish and cattle. As ranchers, animal husbandry is in our blood and in every thought of our existence. Water is the life blood of all animals and plants. If the water is taken away from our ranching operation, then the grass and animals will die. The only water we have for life on our ranch is from Mill Creek. While our homes are on small water wells drilled years ago, these wells are not sufficient to support our ranching needs to keep our cattle alive.

Therefore, we respectfully request you please reconsider the unfair taking of our water from Mill Creek. This action would condemn the value of our ranch and would greatly affect the well-being of the cattle, the need for employees that care for the cattle, and the value of the property and water rights that we purchased years ago.

Thank you for hearing our pleas and for considering the needs of our cattle and our ranching operation, in addition to the fish in Mill Creek.

Bailey and Amy Peyton
Peyton Pacific Properties, LLC