

To Whom It May Concern:



Regarding the proposed action to disallow water usage from the South Fork Bear Creek watershed in Shingletown, CA, we advise against said course of action for the following environmental and economic reasons:

1. Myers Family Ranch is a holder of pre-1914 water rights in the state of California. As continual use of this water has occurred for many decades, we have never relinquished our water rights through neglect or wasteful usage. Over the years hundreds of thousands of dollars have been allocated to improve watering systems, use water most efficiently, and meter water usage and flow through the property.
2. Myers Family Ranch is deemed Essential Agriculture, and is a regional source of economic prosperity through our efficient use of water to grow feed for stock animals, maintain a herd of cattle, and provide employment for many local individuals who thereby contribute tax dollars through their employment. The value that this land adds to the regional economy is directly proportional to our ability to adequately irrigate during dry periods.
3. The health of the local ecosystem is directly impacted by the flow of water on and through this property, as there are long-established wetlands that provide habitat for local species of flora and fauna, as well as migratory birds. A lack of water could completely reroute migratory birds, as well as the regional animals and plants that depend on these animals for food, nutrients, and the spreading of seeds.
4. The continued illegal removal of water from the South Fork Bear Creek watershed by groups of individuals who hold no water rights and illegally trespass in order to grow marijuana not only harms those who participate in economically beneficial activities such as our own, but harm the entire local ecosystem through their misuse of fertilizer and pesticides which enter the waterways, and also divert and damage creek beds to capitalize on their illegal activities. Illegal water use must be curtailed prior to limiting water use by those who have water rights.
5. The continued illegal removal and rerouting of water from the South Fork Bear Creek watershed by individuals who hold no water rights, for the economic and environmental benefit of their own property. This negatively skews the perceived amount of water available, impacting those who are responsibly and legally utilizing said resource by minimizing total water allocations for all. These individuals (as well as those mentioned in article 4 above) will likely continue to remove water if action is taken to limit or halt legal water usage; this will further the issue of assumed water availability.

Regards,

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