



# BYRD CATTLE COMPANY LLC

A California Limited Liability Company

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www.byrdcattleco.com

September 21, 2021

To Whom It May Concern:

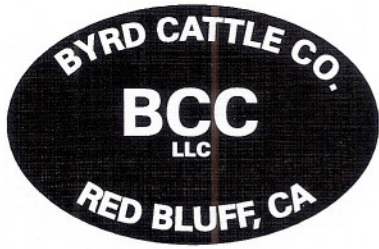
The purpose of this letter is to comment on the potential effects to Byrd Cattle Company from the proposed curtailment of Mill Creek irrigation water, both this fall and in the spring of 2022.

Byrd Cattle Company is a family operation started from scratch in the mid 1970's by Dan & Chris Byrd. The ranch has grown to include their son, Ty, and his four children, Hayley, Jayden, Braxxton and Rhett, who range in age from 6 to 15. Every day three generations of the Byrd family work side-by-side to create and enhance purebred Angus genetics that are marketed to families throughout the United States who use our "seed stock" to propagate their herds.....herds that then produce wholesome beef to feed the world.

Since mid 2007, the Byrd Cattle Company headquarters has been just south of Los Molinos, drawing irrigation water from Mill Creek through the Los Molinos Mutual Water Company. During the spring, summer & early fall we routinely have close to 500 head of cattle of all ages rotationally grazing on lush, green pasture and shaded by towering Valley Oak trees...some of which are 200+ years old. This perfect environment for cattle also provides ideal habitat for deer, fox, dove, coyotes, migrating geese and various other wildlife species. The reason we chose to move our headquarters to Los Molinos? Water. We felt secure in that this ranch irrigates from some of the earliest water rights in California, and we invested close to \$100,000 to make the irrigation system more efficient in an effort to conserve water.

Simply put, life stops without water. Save for sunlight, nothing is as important to a ranching operation. If the potential curtailments happen they won't just hamper our ranch operations, they will absolutely devastate this ranch and our family that has dedicated everything we have to preserving the land, the environment, and wildlife for generations. Timely irrigation water is a necessity as it effectively "jumpstarts" the growing season, getting moisture in the ground. A lack of spring irrigation water impacts pasture growth and production all year long, and would require us to make life altering decisions – to spend approximately \$500,000 to bring in supplemental feed, or to sell out at a substantial loss (at a fire sale there certainly won't be a premium for purebred cattle that are traced through their generational lineage, just like people) and subdivide one of the last pristine pieces of irrigated pastureland of this size in Northern California.

**The West's #1 Source for Low Birth, High Growth Bulls with Marbling, Muscle and Feed Efficiency!**



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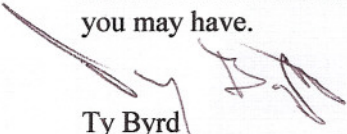
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I hope the practical impact of this proposed curtailment is fully understood. According to California Department of Fish and Wildlife data, this past spring (in 2021), 662 spring-run Chinook salmon returned to Mill Creek. During “pulse flow” periods, a total of 31 spring-run Chinook salmon entered the creek...or less than 5%. If we further analyze the data, it appears that possibly one or two more fish per day entered Mill Creek during the 5 days of pulse flow times as compared to non pulse flow times immediately around those days.

Are 10 fish or less really worth curtailing water and ruining the lives of many hard working families like mine that for generations have helped stimulate the economy, paid taxes, protected wildlife and fed the world? These decisions are permanent in the ranching world; you can't stop and start a ranch up again, nor can you preserve the wildlife habitat they create.

Can 10 fish possibly be more important than the thousands of people this decision will effect?

Please feel free to contact me at 530-200-4054 or [byrdcattleco@hotmail.com](mailto:byrdcattleco@hotmail.com) with any questions you may have.



Ty Byrd  
Byrd Cattle Company