

Eggers, Tomas@Waterboards

From: Jeff Villepique <jvillepique@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 07, 2018 12:46 PM
To: Vasquez, Victor@Waterboards
Subject: Report of Investigation (INV 8217) Nestle Waters of North America

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February 7, 2018

Victor Vasquez
Senior Water Resource Control Engineer
Enforcement Unit 3, Division of Water Rights State Water Resources Control Board
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Dear Mr. Vasquez,

I am writing to thank you and the Water Resources Control Board for the thorough Report of Investigation (INV 8217) of December 20, 2017, regarding water rights claimed by Nestle Waters of North America in the Strawberry Creek drainage on the San Bernardino National Forest. Given the conclusions of the report, that Nestle's water extractions have long exceeded the amount of their legal water rights, I urge the Water Board to take immediate enforcement action to halt illegal withdrawals. I further urge the Board to compel Nestle to remedy decades of adverse impact on fish and wildlife in the Strawberry Creek watershed. Such remediation must compensate for the damages caused by excess extraction from 1947–2015, and continuing unmitigated to this day.

It is essential that the Water Board take an active role in protecting this vital natural resource, and not defer to Federal agencies (USFS, USFWS) now subject to political pressures contrary to their role as trustees of public resources. Please remain engaged in the issue, which demands action to study and mitigate damages, and take strong action to protect the water resources that we Californians, and our natural resources rely upon.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey T. Villepique, Ph.D.