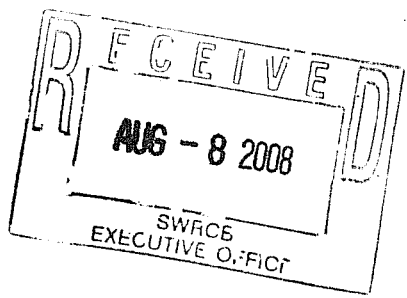


DWR

August 6, 2008

To: State Water Resources Control Board
P.O. Box 100
Sacramento, CA 95814



From: Richard E. Matlock
P.O. Box 265
Laytonville, CA 95454

I wanted to speak at the Board Meeting held in Ukiah, CA on August 5th, but there were many speakers and I had another commitment so I am taking this opportunity to share some thoughts with you.

I have lived on the Mill Creek watershed located west of Laytonville, CA for the past 50 years and have anguished over the lack of flow over the 30 years. I missed the salmon making their runs up the stream in December/January and have watched the kingfishers and raccoons decimate the fingerlings in the drying up pools over the years. I have spoken with Fish and Game Wardens about my concerns and wrote your Board some years back regarding some factors I believe that have resulted in the ever-decreasing flow of Mill Creek.

Over the years, I have observed the following:

1. If all the people with residences on the stream have water rights, the water has been oversubscribed for the amount of water flow. I have difficulty believing that the Water Resources Board would allow that to happen.
2. Ranchers have/are diverting water from the Mill Creek watershed to fill their dams or ponds.
3. A vineyard was approved to put in ponds that has dried up a tributary stream.
4. The stream has been dammed up by marijuana growers each year with impunity from law enforcement for constructing the dams.
5. Property owners that are diverting water from the water shed without authorization are not being prosecuted for their actions.

In the meeting, I heard other people share these same observations. Until there are pollicies and enforcement put in place, instream flows will continue to deminish along with our natural fisheries and our homes that have water rights will need to be abandoned.

Sincerely,
Richard E. Matlock