

Gentlemen,

We appreciate you taking time from one of your evenings to meet with us and make us aware of the water situation in Argyle Canyon. My brother and I and our wives own a 10 acre parcel about a mile up the Mill Canyon road. We have a cabin there with a septic system which were both constructed with the proper permits and inspections. We have a 600 gallon holding tank that we fill about twice a year. According to your calculations if 80% of that water goes back into the aquifer (960 gal.), we use about 240 gallons of water a year at our cabin. We get our water from a source near the head of the canyon that disappears into the ground. There is no clear proof that this water would ever get to the water share holders down stream. As I looked at your geological maps it appeared that the geological structure of the canyon is such that water going into the ground near the head of the canyon would have no effect, positive or negative on the water users below. I realize that some type of expensive study would be required to verify the actual effect. With many different springs as you go down the canyon it may be impossible to measure.

When we built our cabin, the access road to it, our septic system and the fire safety zone, we removed approximately 85 mature trees. If each tree used 10 gallons of water a week to survive, and it used that much water 24 weeks of each year (I believe I am being very conservative). That means that by removing trees from our property we add 20,400 gals of water to the aquifer each year (10 gal. X 24 weeks = 240 X 85 trees = 240,000 gals.). If you times that, by the number of years those trees have been removed, we have added at least 122,400 gallons of water to the aquifer. Our total usage during that same period was less than 1440 gals. It would seem that we have an inherent right to the use of that water. The ten acres of property that we own stores a lot of snowfall each year that melts and goes into the aquifer, it seems we should be entitled to a small portion of what they consider "their water". I only ask that you be fair with your decision.

Again, I appreciate your time. I realize this is a low priority item in the fifth year of drought, where there are real problems to be addressed.

Please feel free to contact me,  
Karl Hansen