

Calaveras Enterprise
Opinion

Not just outsiders threaten rights

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The Calaveras County Water District should of course do all it can do to protect and defend our water rights. Still, the decision by the Calaveras County Board of Supervisors with regard to Wallace Lake Estates Unit 2 was a correct decision. The board voted to require an environmental impact report based on two issues: the California tiger salamander and sustainable water availability on the west end of the county.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife submitted a letter that stated that the developer would need to re-draw the project to mitigate to less-than-significant the project's impact on the California tiger salamander.

East Bay Municipal Utility District's letter requested that, if the county required further environmental studies, that water be part of that study. What CCWD may not have known when it wrote the letter to East Bay MUD is that the developer's agent in two previous county meetings spoke at length about ways to manipulate the draw-down of water from Camanche Reservoir into the Wallace aquifer, thus promising a plentiful water supply for the development. East Bay MUD was almost forced to respond to these statements in an effort to protect its customers.

The Enterprise article quotes Ed Pattison of CCWD as saying, "There is no definitive data on groundwater supplies." Pattison goes on to say that there are new monitoring wells scheduled for installation in the Wallace area over a two-to-three-year period to provide that information.

Isn't that exactly what East Bay MUD was asking for when it requested that water be included in any further environmental studies ordered by the county?

Jeff Davidson's response to Lew Mayhew – "So you are comfortable with outside agencies coming in and taking our water?" – misses the point entirely.

The point is that current residents, especially those of us on the west end of the county, want some guarantee that we will have some of that water when we turn on our taps.

It is not anti-growth to want to protect our water and what is left of our property values.

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Wallace