

Supervisor McGourty,

I sincerely hope you have heard from other livestock owners in your district but since I am not in your district and became aware, today, of agenda item 6b (see below) I wanted to express my concern.

As a third generation owner of a family business, raising commercial beef cattle in Mendocino County, I have put the majority of my life into raising commercial beef cattle and building up a herd with stellar genetics. Until this year I have never had to bring in water from off the property to water my livestock, even in 1977 we had water available for them on the property. In 2017 I purchased water tanks that fit into the back of a pickup trucks to move water from one source on my property to water troughs for my cows and I used that system last year as well.

This year with the lack of rainfall I did not keep any replacement heifers for my herd and also culled pretty heavily. I had to start hauling water August 7th from one location on my property to water troughs set up for my cattle. Then on August 19th, after hauling water every day, it became apparent my source would soon be depleted at the rate I was hauling. I then contacted and made arrangements for water to be delivered from off the property and this has kept my cattle watered and alive.

If item 6b is approved as presented below I have two choices, sell my life's work or pray for rain and watch my cattle die. I urge you to allow water hauling to businesses that raise livestock that are in dire straits because they have no water for their livestock available on their property.

Respectfully,
Peter Bradford
Owner: Bradford Ranch LLC

6b) Discussion and Possible Action Including Direction to Staff to Draft an Urgency Ordinance Regarding the Prohibition of Water Hauling from One Source to

Another Except for Health and Human Safety or Permitted Businesses

(Sponsor: The Drought Task Force Ad Hoc Committee of Supervisors McGourty and Haschak)

Recommended Action/Motion:

Direct staff to draft an urgency ordinance regarding the prohibition of water hauling from one source to another except for personal health and human safety or permitted businesses, and return to full Board for approval at a later date.

Previous Board/Board Committee Actions:

The BOS declared a drought state of emergency on April 20, 2021.

Summary of Request:

With the drought in its second year, people are increasingly concerned about wells going dry and aquifers being excessively tapped. Reports of people with private wells selling water that is then transported to distant locations for unpermitted usages are common throughout inland Mendocino County. According to Baldwin vs. Tehama Co., counties have the authority to regulate the transfer of water. An urgency ordinance prohibiting water hauling to unpermitted business usages will help law and code enforcement to enforce and regulate the transport of water. The ordinance could contain such restrictions as limiting the hours that water trucks can operate and log of details of each delivery.

Alternative Action/Motion:

Provide alternative direction.

