Amador Criticizes Mule Creek Settlement Agreement

Amador County has issued a tough criticism of the legal agreement intended to address illegal waste discharges at Mule Creek State prison. In a comment letter issued Wednesday, by the Amador County Council’s office, while supportive of the issuing of the administrative order, says that the order does not go far enough to address the Prison’s discharges into Mule Creek, which has triggered a lawsuit from the County to enforce the Clean Water Act. Among the issues called out by the County, the settlement order only addresses waste spills that occur during dry months of the year, and fails to fully address all the sources of pollution caused by Mule Creek Prison, including its storm-water system, spray field disposal system and industrial waste from prison industries. The County also says the agreement does not outline sufficient penalties to be enforced should the Prison fail to address the order.

Following years of complaints about Mule Creek Prison’s violation of the clean water act through various discharges of wastewater, storm-water, and industrial waste, Amador County filed a lawsuit earlier this year intending to force action by the State Regional Water Quality Board against the Prison. The agreement criticized by County yesterday was part of the settlement agreement for that lawsuit.

