



Nestlé addresses water rights

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By Michael Le Guellec

Dave Palais, Natural Resource Manager for Nestlé Waters North America recently addressed the residents of McCloud in a letter sent to the McCloud Community Services District's website.

In an effort to keep McCloud residents informed of the McCloud/Nestlé Project, the district and Nestlé has set up a website for submitting and addressing questions regarding the district's contract with Nestlé Waters North America.

The website addresses residents' concerns regarding the project and gives progress updates on the Arrowhead factory project.

One of the recent questions regarding the project was whether the district has sold or transferred its water rights in the agreement with Nestlé.

According to general manager Pete Kampa, the district retains all water rights, ownership of the springs and all new pipeline infrastructure serving the factory.

The committee said that Nestlé has no more water rights than any other customer and has no authority to limit, restrict, or otherwise affect deliveries to other customers.

Another question that was asked is why is Nestlé so secretive in releasing information about when and where the factory will be built.

The committee said that at this point, there simply is not much to report other than Nestlé Waters is working diligently to secure property in McCloud and start the environmental review process with the goal of beginning construction of the factory in 2005.

The response coincides with what Dave Palais, Natural Resource Manager from Nestlé stated during a meeting of the McCloud Citizens Group held on March 25th.

Palais's letter read as follows:

Dear residents of McCloud,

Since September, we have been very busy taking the necessary steps to secure our Arrowhead project within the community of McCloud.

Hopefully, within the next few weeks, we will be able to share great news with all of you including the selection of a factory site and the initiation of the permitting process.

Over the past few months, Arrowhead has entered into negotiations for a factory site and submitted all the necessary paperwork to begin the process of evaluation required by the California Environmental Quality Act.

We have also conducted some preliminary habitat evaluations while working with the county on the formal project description and other permitting issues. Should anyone have any questions or want to discuss the project, please visit us at: www.mccloudarrowheadproject.org. If you are unable to find answers to your question on the website, please feel free to leave your question on the McCloud-Arrowhead water project hotline at 866-624-9376.