



# DON'T LET YOUR HARD EARNED MONEY GO DOWN THE DRAIN

**WATER FOR CITIZENS OF WEED, CALIFORNIA**  
c/o Michael Yates, (530) xxx-xxxx  
[www.gofundme.com/water-for-citizens](http://www.gofundme.com/water-for-citizens)

**Dear Weed Friends and Neighbors,**

We are a group of citizens in Weed concerned about the loss of the water supply on which our City has depended for more than 100 years. You may have recently received a letter from Roseburg Forest Products signed by its outgoing CEO, Allyn Ford, or have read his letter to the Weed Press. We would like to respond to those letters as they contain a distorted picture of the situation.

First, we appreciate the historical and mutually beneficial relationship between Weed and the lumber industry and the contributions RFP and the Ford family have made to our City. However, no amount of public relations spin can hide this fundamental issue: The attempt by Roseburg to force our community to give up its main source of gravity-fed spring water—in part so it can sell it to a foreign corporation--is unethical and very likely illegal.

Mr. Ford's claim that negotiations with the City of Weed have been "earnest" distorts the fact that RFP has changed its demands on numerous occasions. After stating for more than five years that it would not lease any Beaughan Springs water to the City after June, 2016, RFP quickly reversed its decision when negotiations reached an impasse and the City declared an impending emergency. Roseburg has taken offers to assist the City in developing alternative sources on and off the table--leading many to doubt the company's sincerity.

**Roseburg's claim that it has "never threatened to cut off the city's water supply" is simply false.** Three of the signers of this letter heard Roseburg's representative clearly threaten just such an outcome at a 2011 Weed water committee meeting and are willing to sign legal affidavits testifying to that effect.

**Roseburg's claim that, "it is not "stealing" the water from the city" distorts the fact that it is bullying and manipulating our City in an attempt to take 100% of the water source that has been shared between the lumber industry and Weed ever since the town's beginning.** While Roseburg says it has exclusive rights to Weed's

historic allocation of 2.0 cubic feet per second of water from Beaughan Springs, this is based on a shaky legal argument and has never been ruled on by a court of law. The original 1932 decree clearly indicates the Beaughan Springs water is intended for the "Township of Weed". "Domestic and Municipal uses" are, according to California law, the highest priority. In all subsequent adjudications there have been specific dedicated measures allotted for domestic and municipal, irrigation and industrial uses. In 1961 the City of Weed incorporated, bringing over 500 homes into the city and ending our status as a company town. When International Paper (Roseburg's predecessor) subdivided and sold houses to the general public, they came with a guarantee of water for domestic and municipal use. In 1966 IP sold the water and sewer infrastructure to the city of Weed and later, in 1982, closed its mill, giving rights to domestic and municipal water to the City of Weed. The City has invested large sums in its water system, a system used by Roseburg, and the City owns all of the water infrastructure from the springs to our homes.

**Roseburg's claim that it is "not in negotiations to sell the city's allocation of water to someone else" is misleading at best.** Crystal Geysers is already buying Beaughan Springs water from Roseburg, a significant portion of which goes to Japan and other countries. Crystal Geysers representatives have recently made statements to City of Weed officials confirming that the company expects to receive additional water from Roseburg as the City is forced to phase out its water use from Beaughan Springs. Developing, operating and maintaining alternative water sources will be very expensive, forcing the ratepayers in Weed to pay an estimated \$2.4 million extra over the next ten years for an inferior quality water source in addition to normal rate hikes.

In his recent letter to the Weed Press, Mr. Ford states, "The current conflict is a natural part of Weed's ongoing transition from a mill town...to a mature and self-sufficient municipality." This condescending remark distorts the fact that, ever since the lumber industry began in this area, the water has been a shared resource used by both the mill and the town. Roseburg has depended on our town and our workers just as much as Weed has depended on Roseburg. It is difficult to understand why Roseburg is now "stabbing us in the back" for the sake of additional profits after this long and mutually beneficial relationship. What is now "mature" about our town is that we are not going to just lie down and let Roseburg walk all over us.

Over the next few months you will probably hear some who say "this matter is all decided and that we need to move on." Remind them that there has been no court decision regarding the usage of Beaughan Springs water! "Moving on" just "kicks the can down the road" as the water lease Roseburg forced on the City requires us to have found an alternative water source within two years. Then the real expense begins. We can't afford to rollover!

We owe it to this generation and those who follow to make sure we secure the rights to our water, our most valuable resource. We are prepared to do this through legal action if necessary, to ensure enforcement of the 1932 decree.

We would use your support as we continue our work on this important issue for our community.

Yours sincerely,

Jim Taylor, Mary Jackson, Mike Yates, Jim Gubetta, Dave Pearce, Bob Hall, Joe Berry and Janis Wilson