

Jack (John) Wessman

March 12th 2014

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Dear Ross Atkinson:

I, Jack Wessman, bought the abandoned Mt Diablo Mercury Mine property as a home site to raise my family. Almost immediately the State Water Police showed up with many demands. Mainly, to stop the mineral spring from flowing! I tried many ways, but to no avail. Through the years, I have met with the State agents, but they all said the same thing, "There is to be no mineral water in the creek!" Through the years I covered most mine tailings with clean fill, and reversed the flow of the rain water into three settling ponds. This took over 5,300 dump truck loads of clean dirt. I did all this with my grandkids' college money and my wife's and my retirement funds.

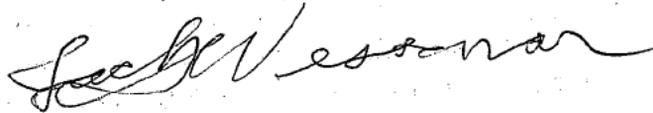
In order to keep the rainwater out of the open mine holes I had to buy an excavator, a bulldozer, a dumptruck, a backhoe and a 30 ton compactor in order to do it properly. I learned how to operate the equipment and did all the work myself.

Then the people from Sacramento required me to get a mining exemption, which purportedly would solve all my problems. I had to hire an engineering firm and a law office to get everything together for the state-required mining exemption, which they told me would be permanent. The aid of these experts alone, cost over \$100,000, and the meeting was in Redding! So on the appointed day I was required to rent a private plane to fly them all to Redding to present my application to the Board. The mining exemption was awarded to me. I later learned from the RWCB that the mining exemption was worthless.

Soon after, the State Attorney began harassing my wife with payment of "fines" incurred by the mine. During this stressful time, I had a heart attack, requiring a quadruple bypass and was not doing well. My wife did not mention the harassment to me, and put many thousands of dollars on her credit card. All this because the "Responsible Parties" (those who caused the damages) were not brought to account. I even paid for a chain of title in order that the Board would take action and go after the responsible parties. After 30 years it seems they finally did.

I have always cooperated with everyone who wanted to inspect or test our property. I was always available to them. My family and I have carried this load since 1974. These last forty years have been a real chore for us, with no encouragement or reimbursement of any kind. I believe those responsible parties should reimburse us at least \$350,000.

I remain,



Jack (John) Wessman

Mt. Diablo Mines

P.S. I am eighty-five years old and, frankly I am tired.