

# Water for Fire Fighting

A few years ago, there was a large grass fire on the very property that has now become the hemp operation. The local Fire Department was dispatched, and with hoses on full blast, the fire was eventually extinguished. Interesting note, that during this fire the Fire Department asked if they could draw water from our ponds if they needed to, of course the answer was yes. As it turned out they didn't, but it is good to know that water is available when needed.

The volume of water that the hemp operation intends to divert from the stream could realistically create, or at the very least exacerbate, a summer water shortage in our area. Foothills County Bylaw 1/2021 is intended to "govern water use and water conservation measures during events of water shortage." Section 3 (Water Conservation and Restriction Strategies) of the Bylaw identifies the Fire Chief as one of the parties who could be involved in declaring a water shortage.

We ask whether County officials consulted, or plan to consult, representatives of the Fire Department to determine what role the "unnamed spring fed stream" and associated ponds might have in supplying water, in the event of a grass fire, or worse, a residential fire in this area - or along Hwy 552 East. We would also be interested to know whether residential wells and cisterns could be utilized in fire fighting efforts, and what the impact would be if water levels were reduced to such a state as to make them unavailable for fire fighting efforts.

Dianne Harvey