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| |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |   **Interesting stories about the Arroyo Del Valle!**  On Monday November 20th 1995, Biology classes on a field excursion to the Arroyo discovered that the water level in the study sites was significantly lower than ever seen before. The spillway under the Main Street Bridge had no water spilling over to fill sites 2-14. What was once a continuous flowing stream had become several large pools of water. Some of the smaller pools contained crawdads and creek chub making a last ditch effort to survive. Students collected as many as could be held in our classroom aquaria.  After placing the creek specimens in the classroom aquaria it was noted that some of the female crawdads had egg masses and several others began mating almost immediately. We hypothesized that this may be a behavioral response to stressful environmental circumstances. Perhaps this behavior may increase the chances of survival of the species during times of low water. We knew that water levels were controlled by the water district and local quarries but found it hard to believe that the rate of flow would be stopped for any significant length of time.  On November 28 1995 I returned to the Arroyo after school in preparation for a class excursion the next day. Upon my arrival I was astonished to find, with the exception of site one, absolutely no water in the study site. Water flow into the Arroyo must had been stopped throughout the Thanksgiving Holidays. I returned to school to obtain the video camera so that this event could be recorded. The pictures on this page are of sites 2-4 and 9-11 which are normally have a water depth of 2-115 centimeters. We later found out that construction work had led to blocking flow into the Arroyo for an entire week. Nothing but the dismembered shells of crawdads, perhaps eaten by visiting raccoons, and dried up carcasses of creek chub gave any indication of the abundant fauna that once flourished here. It was appalling to think that there would be so little concern for the Arroyo habitat.       |  | | --- | | Copyright © 2008 Amador Valley High. All Rights Reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part in any form or medium without express written permission of Amador Valley is prohibited. | |