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|  | [Note: Best if viewed at Full Screen]  Recommendations  Part 2           At this point it should be reiterated that altered pH levels and acid deposition should not be ruled out as an explanation for the situation at the creek.  Many of the methods that we used were somewhat inaccurate, arguably enough so as to render some of our information almost irrelevant.  One of the most of the most limiting factors in our research was our inability to get truly accurate pH readings.  The only means we had of testing pH was with pathetically primitive pH paper.  pH is based on a scale of zero to fourteen, and this paper enables you to test accurately only for these integers (i.e. there is no way to test on a smaller scale, like tenths).  To make matters worse, we were only working with pH�s between four and ten - a small enough scale to make accuracy fairly important.  One tool that would have been invaluable in our research is an electronic pH tester, because it would have provided infinitely more accurate readings than pH paper.          Through no fault of our own we were unable to attain one for our research (definitely not for lack of trying or lack of supplies - it appears that [a certain teacher at Amador who�s name we will not mention](http://www.pleasanton.k12.ca.us/avh_science/teachers/deboer.html) seems to enjoy hoarding electronic pH testers for her own personal use and no one else�s) .  We would recommend to anyone who wishes to continue our pH research that they stop at nothing (nothing!) to acquire an electronic pH tester.          Another possible problem with our research might have been the age of our subjects - that is, several-week-old tadpoles.  For future research we would recommend that testing start as early as conception.  We realized too late into our testing that severe pH levels might have another, more devastating effect than killing tadpoles or grown frogs; it might kill frog gametes, thereby eliminating any chance for future frog populations to even get off the ground, or out of the water as the case may be (sorry - bad joke).  Experimentation for this would be difficult, of course, because a) one would need a male and a female frog and b) the frogs would have to mate.  Testing for this would also have to take place in the spring, the frogs� mating period.          Another recommendation we have is to get the pH level of the various creeks sites being tested over a period of time.  For our research we only collected water samples for testing one time, during the spring.  We feel that for a more complete understanding of the ecosystem, more readings from various times, preferably at least one from each of the seasons, or at the least, fall, winter, and spring.  Through this one could witness any changes in creek biology that might occur as a result of outside forces - more specifically, acid rain.   Our final suggestion for further research would be to look to other creeks or even at other species within the arroyo to develop a reference point as to whether the disappearance of frog populations is limited to the Arroyo Del Valle (locally at least, as this seems to be in keeping with a worldwide trend), or even to frogs.    [Back to Part One](http://docs.google.com/recom.html) |

*This Web Site is Best viewed with 256 or more colors.*

*For More Information about Creekwatch, please contact Eric Thiel at*[*ethiel@pleasanton.k12.ca.us*](mailto:ethiel@pleasanton.k12.ca.us)