



Enforcement News

Pistachio processing facility in Tulare County will pay \$221,440 fine for odor violations

Numerous residents complained of stench from wastewater pond

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Contact: Blair Robertson

Blair.Robertson@Waterboards.ca.gov

RANCHO CORDOVA – A Central Valley pistachio processing plant whose wastewater ponds triggered numerous odor complaints from nearby residents will pay a \$221,440 fine, a portion of which will fund improved ventilation at two public schools in the area.

The Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) fined Setton Pistachio after determining the company had violated the terms of an August 2020 cease and desist order (CDO) directing it to immediately eliminate objectionable odors coming from ponds at its plant in Terra Bella in Tulare County. The order also directed the company to produce technical reports documenting how it resolved the issue.

The board's enforcement unit in Fresno worked with the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District to respond to the odor complaints, and inspections conducted in autumn 2020, after the issuance of the CDO, documented the continuance of the odors.

"We want dischargers to understand that when they do not comply with our requirements there are significant penalties," said Clay Rodgers, assistant executive officer at the Central Valley Water Board.

Based on the terms of the [settlement agreement](#), Setton Pistachio will pay \$133,204.73 to the State Water Resources Control Board Cleanup and Abatement Account. The remaining \$88,235.27 will go toward the installation of air scrubbers for heating, ventilation and air conditioning units at Carl Smith Middle School and Terra Bella Elementary School.

For more details, visit the [Central Valley Water Board's web page](#).





The Central Valley Water Board is a state agency responsible for protecting water quality and ensuring beneficial uses such as aquatic habitat and human health for 11,350 miles of streams, 579,110 acres of lakes, and the largest contiguous groundwater basin in California.

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