



Enforcement News

Central Coast Water Board and South San Luis Obispo County Sanitation District Settle Litigation Regarding 2010 Wastewater Spill

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The Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board has reached an agreement with the South San Luis Obispo County Sanitation District to resolve legal actions initiated by the Central Coast Water Board after a wastewater spill at the district's sewage treatment plant in December 2010.

In 2012 the Central Coast Water Board fined the district nearly \$1.11 million for spilling over 600,000 gallons of sewage. The district contested the fine with the State Water Resources Control Board and in courts.

The district has agreed to pay a total of \$1,109,812.80 in fines and toward environmental improvement projects and plant upgrades.

"We are pleased to see this legal action come to an end after many long years of significant litigation, said Dr. Jean-Pierre Wolff, chair of the Central Coast Water Board. "We are confident that the sanitation district has improved its operation of the wastewater plant and are pleased that some of the fine could be used for local projects to benefit the environment."

The district will pay \$554,906.40 directly to the State Water Resources Control Board's Cleanup and Abatement Fund. In addition, the district will fund the following projects:

- \$110,981.28 to the Central Coast Water Board's Groundwater Assessment and Protection program, which will be used to collect data on groundwater quality throughout the central coast and to assist disadvantaged communities with drinking water issues.
- \$221,962.56 toward developing a model for the groundwater basin underlying southern San Luis Obispo County. The model will assist basin managers in developing projects to enhance recharge and fight seawater intrusion.
- \$221,962.56 toward a grit removal system at the district's wastewater treatment plant. Better grit removal will improve the quality of wastewater produced at the plant and



decrease wear and tear on plant components, which will decrease maintenance and replacement costs.

The Central Coast Water Board is responsible for protecting and restoring water quality in the 300-mile-long coastal region from southern San Mateo and Santa Clara counties to the northern part of Ventura County.

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