



Enforcement News

Placerville Developer Agrees to Settlement for Illegal Diversions into Nearby Creek

Palos Verdes Properties Inc. Violated Storm Water Rules at Construction Project

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SACRAMENTO – A Placerville development company that illegally discharged sediment and stormwater from its construction site has agreed to pay \$171,000 in a settlement with the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board.

Several inspections conducted by the regional board staff early this year found that Palos Verdes Properties, Inc., violated its stormwater permits in January and February of 2019 by failing to properly assess the project’s risk level or implement adequate erosion controls.

The developer attempted to capture stormwater in a pond at the Crossings Phase 2 location, but quickly ran out of capacity and was forced to pump the water offsite for disposal. This allowed turbid stormwater and sediment to flow into Mound Springs Creek, which is tributary to Indian Creek and eventually flows to Folsom Lake.

“The owner of the project made a decision to impound the stormwater instead of protecting the site with adequate erosion controls,” said Andrew Altevogt, Assistant Executive Officer for the Central Valley Board. “That led to a discharge that severely compromised the watershed. The requirements in our stormwater permits are specifically designed to prevent these types of harmful events.”

Discharges of sediment can cloud the receiving water, which reduces the amount of sunlight reaching aquatic plants. They also can clog fish gills, smother aquatic habitat and spawning areas, and transport other materials such as nutrients, metals, and oil and grease, negatively impacting aquatic life and habitat.

To prevent these occurrences, owners of construction sites larger than one acre must enroll in the [General Permit for Storm Water Discharges Associated with Construction and Land Disturbance Activities](#). Among other items, this permit requires the owner to hire a “stormwater professional” to design and install erosion and sediment controls.





Palos Verdes Properties, Inc., which was enrolled in the permit program, remedied its situation in March by installing a treatment system to filter the stormwater prior to discharge.

[The Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board](#) is a California state agency responsible for the preservation and enhancement of water quality. A copy of the [order](#) is available on the Central Valley Water Board's adopted orders page.