



Media Release

Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

<http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/>

City of Lone Faces \$143,552 Penalty for Failure to Comply with Cease and Desist Order

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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SACRAMENTO – The Executive Officer of the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) has issued a \$143,552 penalty to the city of Lone for violating a 2011 Cease and Desist Order (Order). The city failed to submit a report describing proposed improvements at its wastewater treatment facility.

“This penalty comes following more than a decade of noncompliance by the city of Lone, which has been unable or unwilling to construct upgrades to its wastewater treatment plant to ensure that wastewater is treated and discharged in a manner that protects the environment,” said Pamela Creedon, Central Valley Water Board Executive Officer. “Despite numerous warnings, and two Cease and Desist Orders, unnecessary environmental risks continue unaddressed.”

The 2011 Cease and Desist Order required that the city submit a Report of Waste Discharge by May 30th, 2012. The city submitted a document on July 20th 2012, but Central Valley Water Board staff found that it did not meet the criteria outlined in the Order. Therefore, the city is in violation of the 2011 Order. The city’s continued delay in proposing a project that meets the terms of the Order jeopardizes the city’s ability to secure funding and to complete needed upgrade to the wastewater treatment system by the October 30th, 2013 deadline.

The complaint is scheduled to be heard by the Central Valley Water Board at its regular public hearing scheduled for December 6 and 7, in Rancho Cordova. Public comments are due by October 2. The complaint is available for public review on the Central Valley Water Board’s website at http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_decisions/tentative_orders/

Background of Violation and Non Compliance

In 2000, Central Valley Water Board staff became aware that the city had intentionally taken actions which violated its waste discharge permit. The city did not voluntarily come into compliance. Therefore, in 2003, the Central Valley Water Board issued a Cease and Desist Order requiring lone to make improvements to its wastewater treatment facility. However, the city did not comply with that Order. In 2010, the city was faced with a maximum penalty of over \$11 million, and asked the Board for another opportunity to come into compliance. In 2011, the Central Valley Water Board issued a second Cease and Desist Order. This Order requires that the wastewater facility be upgraded no later than October 30th, 2013 to correct



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four long-standing problems: wastewater seepage into Sutter Creek, pollution of groundwater with iron and manganese, use of unauthorized disposal ponds, and surfacing of wastewater around the ponds.

The Central Valley Water Board is a California state agency responsible for the preservation and enhancement of quality in water resources.

For more information, visit: <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/>

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