



Enforcement News

Central Valley Water Board Issues Penalty to Kern County Grower for Failing to Acquire Water Quality Permit

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Sacramento—The Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) issued a \$100,100 penalty to Kern County landowner Konark Ranches LLC for failing to get a required permit for discharging waste from irrigated cropland on their 158-acre property located in the Kern River Watershed. The permit ensures that waste discharges from commercial irrigated lands don't harm the Central Valley's rivers and groundwater aquifers.

"The vast majority of the growers in our region have signed up for their permits and are working to improve water quality," said Patrick Pulupa, incoming Central Valley Water Board Executive Officer. "This penalty puts unpermitted growers on notice that evading their responsibilities will not give them a competitive advantage."

In September 2013, the Central Valley Water Board adopted a permit setting waste discharge requirements for growers in the Kern River Watershed. Under this permit, growers could join a coalition called the Kern River Water Coalition Authority (Kern Coalition) or seek coverage under an individual permit. The Kern Coalition conducts monitoring and provides reports to the Central Valley Water Board on behalf of the growers. Growers who use the individual permit are subject to much higher costs associated with individual monitoring and reporting requirements.

Owners of irrigated cropland can find out how to join a coalition group in the Tulare Lake Basin Area and get the required regulatory coverage by going to the [Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program Join a Coalition Group webpage](#), or by calling the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program at (559) 488-4396. More information about these fines can be found at the [Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program Compliance and Outreach Activities webpage](#).

For more information on the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board, please visit the homepage [here](#).

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