



# Enforcement News

## **Two Central Valley Dairy Operators Cited for Violating Waste Management Practices**

### ***Silva Brothers Dairy #1 and Lockwood III Dairy Violated Dairy Waste Discharge Requirements, Threatening Groundwater Quality***

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**SACRAMENTO** – The Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board has issued cease and desist orders to two dairies in Acampo and Waterford whose management practices threatened groundwater quality after overflowing lagoons dumped wastewater onto cropland last winter. The action came at a June 4 Board meeting.

Staff from the Board's Dairy Unit responded to a complaint and documented violations at the [Lockwood III Dairy in Waterford](#). During a February 2019 inspection, staff observed standing manure wastewater in fields and corrals surrounding the dairy. The Board discovered violations at the [Silva Brothers Dairy](#) in Acampo during an inspection in March 2019. Staff observed full wastewater ponds and corrals and cropland that were flooded with excess wastewater.

While manure and dairy wastewater contain nutrients, including nitrates, that are beneficial to crops, they should only be applied when needed, since excess nitrates can pollute groundwater. To ensure nitrate-laden manure and wastewater is only applied according to crop needs, dairies are required to have enough capacity to store wastewater throughout the rainy winter months. Crops cannot uptake nutrients from manure and wastewater when the ground is saturated with rainwater.

As the dairies were dumping wastewater because they lacked storage capacity and not for crop nutrient needs, they violated their nutrient management plans.

These two dairies have repeatedly been cited for violating requirements to have enough capacity to store their wastewater over the winter. Both dairies have received matching grants to install features that will improve their manure management and result in more storage capacity in their wastewater ponds.

Because of this, the Board chose to bypass fines and instead adopt cease and desist orders that require the dairies to implement the improvements in a timely manner. If either dairy fails to construct the improvements or violates the order, that dairy can be required to cease operations.



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. It is the largest of nine regional boards, encompassing 60,000 square miles, or about 40 percent of the state. Thirty-eight of 58 counties are either completely or partially within the Board's boundaries, formed by the crests of the Sierra Nevada on the east, the Coast Ranges and Klamath Mountains on the west, the Oregon border on the north, and the Tehachapi Mountains on the south.