

State Water Resources Control Board

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 5, 2001
SWRCB 01-007

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ENFORCEMENT UPDATE: FEBRUARY ACTIONS

SACRAMENTO – California Regional Water Quality Control Boards took formal enforcement actions during February 2001, which resulted in the assessment of nearly \$265,000 in fines against 18 agencies and businesses that made illegal discharges. Following is a list of some of those enforcement actions.

San Francisco Bay Area Regional Water Quality Control Board

- **Burlingame, San Mateo County:** The City of Burlingame Waste Water Treatment Plant was fined \$3,000 after a faulty valve allowed a discharge of effluent from the plant that exceeded the facility's permit.
- **Palo Alto, San Mateo County:** Hewlett Packard was fined \$6,000 for discharging levels of the chemicals MTBE and 1,1,1-TCA in excess of the firm's permit. Changes were made to the treatment plant to prevent recurrence.
- **Union City, Alameda County:** U.S. Pipe & Foundry was issued a Clean up and Abatement Order requiring the firm to halt disposal of waste and develop a closure plan for a landfill. The landfill does not currently have a permit.
- **Novato, Marin County:** The VIA gasoline station was issued a Clean-up and Abatement Order requiring the firm to clean up a plume of the gasoline additive MTBE, which has contaminated a drinking water well.

Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

- **Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz County:** Locatelli Moving and Storage was fined \$3,750 for illegal industrial stormwater discharges. The firm will have its fine reduced to \$1,000 provided it pays its fine by a specified date and submits an annual report; otherwise an additional \$2,000 fine will be assessed.
- **San Luis Obispo, San Luis Obispo County:** The City of San Luis Obispo was fined \$12,150 for unauthorized discharges. The City will enter into a land conservancy agreement for Stenner Creek project for \$10,000 and will reimburse the State Water Resources Control Board \$2,150 for staff costs.

Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

- **Anderson, Shasta County:** The City of Redding was fined \$3,000 for a violation of a Waste Discharge Order from the City's Clear Creek Waste Water Treatment Plant. A goose flew into power lines, knocking out power to an outfall building at the facility. The signal measuring the flow showed no flow so treatment levels were automatically reduced, when in fact, under treated effluent was being released.

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- **Markleeville, Alpine County:** The Alpine County Department of Public Works was fined \$3,000 for violations of waste discharge requirements. Turbidity was observed in Markleeville Creek during a bank stabilization project. Excavation in an open channel and heavy equipment moving over a saturated gravel bar were the likely causes of the turbidity.
- **Truckee, Placer County:** The Executive Officer issued a notice of violation to property owners E. Stratton and Kenneth Osburn for their failure to submit a work plan to investigate a petroleum hydrocarbon contamination. A \$12,500 fine was issued for the property owners' failure.
- **Tahoe City, Placer County:** Big Tree Cleaners was fined \$17,000 for 50 days of violation. The dischargers failed to submit technical documents to the Regional Board.

Colorado River Basin Regional Water Quality Control Board

- **Thermal, Imperial County:** The Regional Board issued a Clean-up and Abatement Order and an administrative civil liability action against the Coachella Valley Water District for violations of its discharge permit. The Regional Board fined the District \$57,000 for a spill of influent of about 60,000 gallons. \$7,000 of the amount will be paid into the state Cleanup and Abatement Account and the remaining \$50,000 will be suspended, pending completion of an agreed project. The District was also fined another \$33,000 for a 25,000-gallon spill into the Whitewater River, 10,000 gallons of which flowed into the river channel. Pending completion of an agreed upon project, \$3,000 will be paid into the State's Clean up and Abatement Account and the remaining \$30,000 will be suspended.

Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board

- **Yucaipa, San Bernardino County:** The Yucaipa Valley Water District was fined \$114,000 for mandatory minimum penalties for violations of coliform and total inorganic nitrogen discharges in excess of its discharge permit. The District discharged excessive levels of coliform, turbidity, and total inorganic nitrogen.

San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board

- **Chula Vista, San Diego County:** Two Clean-up and Abatement Orders were issued against All Smash Auto Recycling for illegal discharges of contaminated storm water into the Otay River. The firm, an automobile dismantling facility, was cited for inadequate prevention of residual leaks from dismantled auto parts, maintaining contaminated yard surfaces, allowing liquids to pond, storing uncovered batteries and failure to remove parts inventories to above ground storage. The Order requires immediate, adequate and effective implementation of a storm water pollution prevention plan, ensuring that best management practices are followed to ensure prevention of additional discharges of contaminated storm water. In addition, sampling of storm water and submission of the analytical results must also take place.

The energy challenge facing California is real. Every Californian needs to take immediate action to reduce energy consumption. For a list of simple ways you can reduce demand and cut your energy costs, see our Web-site at <http://www.swrcb.ca.gov>