



Enforcement News

San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board

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City of Encinitas and USS Cal Builders Face \$431,000 Penalty from San Diego Regional Water Board for Water Quality Violations

SAN DIEGO - The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Diego Region (San Diego Water Board) prosecution team has issued a \$431,000 complaint to the city of Encinitas and its contractor, USS Cal Builders, Inc., for water quality violations from construction activities at the 43-acre Hall Property Park, located immediately west of Interstate 5, between Santa Fe Drive and Warwick Ave.

The complaint alleges that the city and its contractor allowed polluted storm water to reach Rossini Creek and San Elijo Lagoon by failing to implement routine practices to reduce sediment transport from the site.

The city identifies Rossini Creek as a sensitive wetland area. Further downstream, San Elijo Lagoon is an ecologically important coastal lagoon adversely affected by sedimentation and siltation, according to the San Diego Water Board's list of [impaired water bodies](#). The mouth of the Lagoon, Cardiff State Beach, supports vibrant recreation, wildlife, and commercial uses.

A copy of the San Diego Water Board's complaint is available for review and comment at http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/water_issues/programs/compliance/acl_complaints.shtml. The San Diego Water Board has scheduled a hearing to consider this complaint on February 12, 2014.

The city and USS Cal Builders can pay the penalty, propose a settlement or supplemental environmental project, or contest the penalty before the San Diego Water Board. The public is invited to submit comments on the complaint by January 15, 2014.

"There is simply no excuse for sloppy construction practices. Both the city and USS Builders have experienced staff certified in construction storm water management. This site could easily have been managed to protect San Elijo Lagoon," said James Smith, Assistant Executive Officer of the San Diego Water Board.



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The San Diego Water Board protects and restores water quality in the southwest portion of the State, including parts of San Diego, Riverside, and Orange Counties.