



Enforcement News

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD LOS ANGELES REGION

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Los Angeles Water Board Approves \$591,000 Settlement with City Of San Buenaventura for Waste Discharge Violations

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LOS ANGELES – The Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (Los Angeles Water Board) approved a settlement agreement for \$591,000 in administrative civil liability against the City of San Buenaventura for violation of the discharge permit for the city’s Water Reclamation Facility.

The penalty stems from 200 violations of its effluent limits from August 2010 through November 2012. The permit effluent limits are designed to protect beneficial uses of the Santa Clara River Estuary.

The violations reported involved exceeding the limits for coliform, copper, ammonia nitrogen, nitrate as nitrogen and turbidity. Mr. Charles Stringer, Chair of the Los Angeles Water Board, stated, “The City has completed plant upgrades and is conducting studies to ensure that the beneficial uses of the Ventura River estuary will no longer be impaired by discharge from the Water Reclamation Plant.”

Under terms of the agreement, the City of San Buenaventura agreed to pay \$591,000 in administrative civil penalties, of which \$303,000 will be suspended pending completion of a Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP) that is designed to reduce heavy metals and other contaminants in storm water.

The City will pay the remaining \$288,000 in administrative civil liability, including \$12,000 in Regional Board oversight costs, to the State Water Pollution Cleanup and Abatement Account.

The SEP is a diversion project located on Hartman Drive in the City of San Buenaventura. The SEP will divert the “first flush” storm water during rain events into sectionalized bioswales, which are landscaping features designed to slow and filter the storm water to remove heavy metals and other contaminants. The SEP is scheduled to be completed by May 15, 2016.

The Los Angeles Water Board protects and restores water quality in coastal watersheds in Los Angeles and Ventura Counties and in portions of Kern and Santa Barbara counties.

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