

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
CENTRAL VALLEY REGION

CLEANUP AND ABATEMENT ORDER R5-2013-0702  
AND REQUEST FOR TECHNICAL AND MONITORING REPORTS

FOR  
RAYMOND PAIGE AND LUCAS BOOKER  
SHASTA COUNTY

This Order is issued to Raymond Paige (landowner) and Lucas Booker (operator) based on provisions of Water Code section 13304, which authorizes the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region (Central Valley Water Board) to issue a Cleanup and Abatement Order and Water Code section 13267, which authorizes the Central Valley Water Board to require the submittal of technical and monitoring reports.

The Assistant Executive Officer of the Central Valley Water Board finds that:

1. Raymond Paige (land owner) and Lucas Booker (lease operator) (hereafter Dischargers) operate a wild rice farm in Shasta County near the Little Tule River (Shasta County APN 016-320-004). Enrollment records provided by the Northeastern California Water Association (NECWA) indicate that the Discharger's property is an irrigated agricultural operation and is currently enrolled in the Central Valley Water Board's Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program (ILRP).
2. The Dischargers flood-irrigate the parcel as part of ongoing rice farming operations. Irrigation water from the site is discharged directly into the Little Tule River. The Little Tule River is tributary to the Fall River, which is tributary to the Pit River, a water of the state of California and a Water of the United States.
3. On 12 April 2013, Central Valley Water Board staff investigated a complaint of sediment-laden water being discharged from agricultural fields into the Little Tule River. Staff observed a surface water discharge of sediment-laden water from a wild rice field on the Discharger's property to the aforementioned surface water. Photographs of the discharge are included as Attachment A to this Order.
4. The California Water Code (Wat. Code) section 13050(d) defines "waste" as sewage and any and all other waste substances, liquid, solid, gaseous, or radioactive, associated with human habitation.... Water Code section 13050 also defines "pollution" to mean the "impairment of the quality of waters of the state by waste to a degree which unreasonably affects either ... (A) the waters for beneficial uses [or] (B) Facilities which serve these beneficial uses."
5. The *Water Quality Control Plan for the Sacramento River and San Joaquin River Basins, Fourth Edition*, (the "Basin Plan") designates beneficial uses, establishes water quality

objectives, contains implementation programs for achieving objectives, and incorporates by reference plans and policies adopted by the State Water Resources Control Board. The beneficial uses applicable to Fall River include municipal and domestic supply, agricultural supply, agricultural stock watering, industrial power supply, water contact recreation, other non-contact water recreation, warm freshwater aquatic habitat, cold freshwater aquatic habitat, and wildlife habitat.

6. The Basin Plan contains water quality objectives designed to protect the beneficial uses delineated in the Basin Plan. Water Quality Objectives that apply to the Beneficial Uses of the Fall River state that suspended sediment and turbidity must not exceed III-7.00 and III-9.00, respectively:

The suspended sediment load and suspended sediment discharge rate of surface waters shall not be altered in such a manner as to cause nuisance or adversely affect beneficial uses.

Waters shall be free of changes in turbidity that cause nuisance or adversely affect beneficial uses. Increases in turbidity attributable to controllable water quality factors shall not exceed the following limits:

- Where natural turbidity is less than 1 Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU), controllable factors shall not cause downstream turbidity to exceed 2
- Where natural turbidity is between 1 and 5 NTUs, increases shall not exceed 1 NTU.
- Where natural turbidity is between 5 and 50 NTUs, increases shall not exceed 20 percent.
- Where natural turbidity is between 50 and 100 NTUs, increases shall not exceed 10 NTUs.
- Where natural turbidity is greater than 100 NTUs, increases shall not exceed 10 percent.

7. Discharges of sediment threaten municipal and domestic supply, agricultural stock watering, water contact recreation, other non-contact water recreation, warm freshwater aquatic habitat, cold freshwater aquatic habitat, and wildlife habitat. Furthermore, surface water samples collected on 12 April 2013 and analyzed by Excelchem Environmental Labs in Rocklin, CA (California ELAP Certification #2119) indicate that natural turbidity in the Little Tule River was 0.9 NTU and downstream turbidity, where the discharge and receiving water were well mixed, was approximately 39.4 NTU. The turbidity of the tailwater sample was 82.5 NTU. Photographs of the discharge and sample locations can be found in Attachment A.

8. Water. Code section 13304(a) provides that:

Any person ... who has discharged or discharges waste into waters of this state in violation of any waste discharge requirement or other order or prohibition issued by ta

regional board has caused or permitted, causes or permits, or threatens to cause or permit any waste to be discharged or deposited where it is, or probably will be, discharged into the waters of the state and creates, or threatens to create, a condition of pollution or nuisance, shall upon order of the regional board clean up the waste or abate the effects of the waste, or, in the case of threatened pollution or nuisance, take other necessary remedial action, including, but limited to, overseeing cleanup and abatement efforts. ... Upon failure of any person to comply with the cleanup or abatement order, the Attorney General, at the request of the board, shall petition the superior court for that county for the issuance of an injunction requiring the person to comply with the order. In the suit, the court shall have jurisdiction to grant a prohibitory or mandatory injunction, either preliminary or permanent, as the fact may warrant.

9. The Dischargers have discharged waste directly into surface waters which are tributary to the Fall River, waters of the state of California, in violation of the Basin Plan. The discharge of tail water and sediment from the Discharger's property has created, or threatens to create, a condition of pollution or nuisance in violation the Basin Plan in violation of Water Code 13304(a).

10. Water Code section 13304(c)(1) provides that:

If the waste is cleaned up or the effects of the waste are abated, or, in the case of threatened pollution or nuisance, other necessary remedial action is taken by any governmental agency, the person or persons who discharged the waste, discharges the waste, or threatened to cause or permit the discharge of waste within the meaning of subdivision (a), are liable to that governmental agency to the extent of the reasonable costs actually incurred in cleaning up the waste, abating the effects of the waste, supervising cleanup or abatement activities, or taking other remedial action. The amount of the costs is recoverable in a civil action by, and paid to, the governmental agency and state board to the extent of the latter's contribution to the cleanup costs from the State Water Pollution Cleanup and Abatement Account or other available funds.

11. Water Code section 13267(b)(1) provides that:

In conducting an investigation specified in subdivision (a), the regional board may require that any person who has discharged, discharges, or is suspected of having discharged or discharging, or who proposes to discharge waste within its region, or any citizen or domiciliary, or political agency or entity of this state who has discharged, discharges, or is suspected of having discharged or discharging, or who proposes to discharge waste outside of its region that could affect the quality of waters of the state within its region shall furnish, under penalty of perjury, technical or monitoring program reports which the regional board requires. The burden, including costs, of these reports shall bear a reasonable relationship to the need for the report and the benefits to be obtained from the reports.

12. The technical reports required by this Order (the *Erosion Control and Irrigation Water Management Plan* mentioned below) are necessary to assure compliance with this Order and to protect the waters of the state. The technical reports are necessary to demonstrate that appropriate methods will be used to clean up waste discharged to

surface waters and to ensure that cleanup complies with Basin Plan requirements. The Discharger named in this Order owns the site from which waste was discharged. These reports are necessary to implement the cleanup requirements imposed by this Order, and the submittal of these reports to the Central Valley Water Board is a minor burden that bears a reasonable relationship to the need for the Board to review the report to ensure that water quality in the receiving water is being protected.

13. The issuance of this Order is an enforcement action taken by a regulatory agency and is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act, pursuant to California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15321(a)(2).

**IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT**, pursuant to Water Code sections, 13267 and 13304, Raymond Paige and Lucas Booker shall:

1. Immediately take all actions to cease the discharge of sediment-laden and other wastes to waters of the state, including but not limited to the Little Tule River and its tributaries, Fall River, and the Pit River.
2. Develop and implement *Erosion Control and Irrigation Water Management Plan* in accordance with the following schedule:

Submit Workplan	By 15 July 2013
Initiate Approved Workplan	By 15 August 2013
Submit Completion Report	By 30 November 2013

- (a) By **15 July 2013**, submit and immediately implement an *Erosion Control and Irrigation Water Management Plan* (the "Plan"). The Plan must describe how the site will be stabilized to prevent future discharges of sediment-laden water and all other wastes, and must give a proposed timeline for the work. The timeline to complete work shall not extend beyond **30 October 2013**. The Plan must describe how sediment-impacted surface waters will be cleaned up, as appropriate, and must include timelines and long-term monitoring to assess the effectiveness of the stabilization and cleanup efforts. The Plan must be prepared by a professional knowledgeable and experienced in erosion and sediment control, as well as, flood irrigation management.
- (b) Implementation should begin by **15 August 2013**. The Plan shall be subject to approval by the Central Valley Water Board, Comments from Central Valley Water Board staff should be incorporated into the Plan.
- (c) By **30 November 2013**, submit a *Completion Report* describing in detail how the *Erosion Control and Irrigation Water Management Plan* has been implemented, and showing that the site and impacted surface waters have been fully remediated. The Dischargers shall provide staff access to areas of the property, as needed.

Failure to submit an acceptable Erosion Control and Irrigation Water Management Plan by the aforementioned deadline may result in the imposition of administrative civil liability.

3. Any person signing a document submitted under this Order shall make the following certification:

*"I certify under penalty of law that I have personally examined and am familiar with the information submitted in this document and all attachments and that, based on my knowledge and on my inquiry of those individuals immediately responsible for obtaining the information, I believe that the information is true, accurate, and complete. I am aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fine and imprisonment."*

4. As required by Business and Professions Code sections 6735, 7835, and 7835.1, all technical reports shall be prepared by, or under the supervision of, a California Registered Engineer or Professional Geologist and signed by the registered professional.

If, in the opinion of the Executive Officer, the Dischargers fail to comply with the provisions of this Order, the Executive Officer may refer this matter to the Attorney General for judicial enforcement or may issue a complaint for administrative civil liability.

Failure to comply with this Order may result in the assessment of an Administrative Civil Liability up to \$10,000 per day of violation pursuant to Water Code sections 13261, 13350, 13385, and/or 13268. The Central Valley Water Board reserves its right to take any enforcement actions authorized by law.

Any person aggrieved by this action of the Central Valley Water Board may petition the State Water Board to review the action in accordance with Water Code section 13320 and California Code of Regulations, title 23, sections 2050 and following. The State Water Board must receive the petition by 5:00 p.m., 30 days after the date of this Order, except that if the thirtieth day following the date of this Order falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or state, the petition must be received by the State Water Board by 5:00 p.m. on the next business day. Copies of the law and regulations applicable to filing petitions may be found on the Internet at:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/public\\_notices/petitions/water\\_quality](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/public_notices/petitions/water_quality)  
or will be provided upon request.

This Order is effective upon the date of signature.

Original signed by Clint Snyder

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For PAMELA C. CREEDON  
Executive Officer

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(Date)

ATTACHMENT A



Photo 1. Little Tule River approximately 300 feet to the east of the discharge point. Sample #3 collected at this location.



Photo 2. Point of tailwater discharge to Little Tule River. Sample #1 collected at this location.





Photo 3. Well mixed zone between Little Tule River and rice tailwater discharge. Sample #2 collected at this location.

Figure 1. Approximate sample locations and point of discharge to Little Tule River

