



## Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

18 July 2025

Thomas Atwood  
Atwood Ranch  
P.O. Box 890  
Kenwood, CA 95452

**CERTIFIED MAIL:**  
**7020 3160 0002 1902 4694**

Eddie Axner  
Eddie Axner Construction, Inc.  
5249 Old Oregon Trail  
Redding, CA 96002

**CERTIFIED MAIL:**  
**7020 3160 0002 1902 4700**

**ADMINISTRATIVE CIVIL LIABILITY COMPLAINT R5-2025-0524,  
THOMAS G. ATWOOD, CYPRESS ABBEY COMPANY, AND EDDIE AXNER  
CONSTRUCTION, INC. – 16565 REEDS CREEK ROAD EMERGENCY REPAIR  
PROJECT, TEHAMA COUNTY**

Enclosed is an Administrative Civil Liability Complaint (Complaint) issued to Thomas G. Atwood, Cypress Abbey Company, and Eddie Axner Construction, Inc (collectively “Dischargers”) pursuant to California Water Code (Water Code) section 13350, which authorizes the imposition of administrative civil liability, and Water Code section 13323, which authorizes the Assistant Executive Officer to issue this Complaint. The Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) Prosecution Team alleges that the Dischargers violated terms of the certification of the 2023 Storms 16565 Reeds Creek Road Emergency Repair Project under State Water Resources Control Board General Water Quality Certification SB18054IN for emergency repair and replacement activities at 16565 Reeds Creek Road. In the Complaint, the Prosecution Team recommends administrative civil liability in the amount of **sixty thousand and ninety-six dollars (\$60,096)**.

The Discharger has a right to a hearing before the Central Valley Water Board within 90 days of the issuance date of this Complaint. A hearing for this matter has been scheduled for the October Board meeting in Redding, California on 9 or 10 October 2025. Alternatively, the Discharger may waive its right to a hearing within 90 days of the issuance date of this Complaint by completing the attached Waiver Form. If the Discharger chooses to waive its right to a hearing within 90 days of this Complaint, the completed and signed Waiver Form must be received by the Central Valley Water Board by **5:00 p.m. on 8 August 2025**. The options included to waive the 90-day hearing requirement are as follows:

NICHOLAS AVDIS, CHAIR | PATRICK PULUPA, EXECUTIVE OFFICER

1. Pay the proposed administrative civil liability and waive your right to a hearing (Option #1 on the attached Waiver Form). If you choose to sign the waiver and pay the assessed civil liability, this will be considered a tentative settlement of the violations. The settlement will be considered in a 30-day public comment period, during which interested parties may comment on the proposed action by submitting written comments to the Central Valley Water Board staff person listed below. The Central Valley Water Board may choose to hold a hearing on the tentative settlement. Should the Central Valley Water Board receive new information or comments during this comment period and/or at the hearing, the Central Valley Water Board may return any payments received, and issue a final Administrative Civil Liability Order based on information and facts obtained during the comment period and/or hearing. If the Central Valley Water Board does not hold a hearing on the tentative settlement, and if the terms of the final settlement are not significantly different from those proposed in the enclosed Complaint, then there will not be additional opportunities for public comment on the proposed settlement.
2. Waive the 90-day hearing requirement in order to engage in settlement discussions (Option #2 on the attached Waiver Form). If this option is chosen, the Discharger certifies that the Discharger will promptly engage with the Central Valley Water Board Prosecution Team to enter into settlement discussions. The Dischargers reserve the ability to request a hearing in the future. It remains within the discretion of the Central Valley Water Board to agree to delay the hearing, and any proposed settlement is subject the conditions described under Option 1.

If the Central Valley Water Board does not receive a signed waiver by **5:00 p.m. 8 August 2025**, a hearing will be held during the 9 or 10 October 2025 Board meeting. This hearing will be governed by the attached Hearing Procedure, which has been approved by the Office of Administrative Law for use in adjudicating matters such as this one. Any requests for revisions to the Hearing Procedure must be received by the Primary Contacts for the Advisory Team and Prosecution Team, whose contact information is listed in the Hearing Procedure, by **5 p.m. on 31 July 2025**.

In order to conserve resources, this letter transmits paper copies of the documents to the Dischargers only. Interested persons may download the documents from the [Central Valley Water Board's Internet website](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_decisions/tentative_orders/) ([http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board\\_decisions/tentative\\_orders/](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_decisions/tentative_orders/)).

Copies of these documents can also be obtained by contacting or visiting the Central Valley Water Board's office on weekdays between 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss legal aspects of the Complaint, please contact Andrew Tauriainen, Attorney, State Water Resources Control Board, Office of Enforcement at (916) 341-5889 or at [andrew.tauriainen@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:andrew.tauriainen@waterboards.ca.gov). If you have technical questions regarding the Complaint, please contact Lynn Coster, Senior Environmental Scientist, Central Valley Water Board, at (530) 224-2437 or at [lynn.coster@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:lynn.coster@waterboards.ca.gov).

Clint E. Snyder, P.G.  
Assistant Executive Officer

CES: cc

Enclosures:

Administrative Civil Liability Complaint R5-2025-0524  
Attachment A: Penalty Calculations  
Attachment B: Hearing Procedures  
Attachment C: Waiver Form for Administrative Civil Liability Complaint

cc via email  
w/ attachments

Patrick Pulupa, Central Valley Water Board, Rancho Cordova  
Christopher Moskal, State Water Board, Office of Chief Counsel, Sacramento  
Stephanie Tadlock, Central Valley Water Board, Rancho Cordova  
Matt Scroggins, Central Valley Water Board, Fresno  
Andrew Tauriainen, State Water Board, Office of Enforcement, Sacramento  
Lynn Coster, Central Valley Water Board, Redding  
Daniel Warner, Central Valley Water Board, Redding  
Kari Holmes, Central Valley Water Board, Rancho Cordova  
Jason Schroeder, Central Valley Water Board, Redding  
Scott McWhorter, US EPA Region 9, San Francisco  
Matthew Roberts, US Army Corps of Engineers, Redding  
Matthew Mitchell, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Redding