

CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
California Regional Water Quality Control Board
San Francisco Bay Region

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San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board and Palmaz Vineyards and Winery of Napa Valley work together to create a unique wetland restoration project totaling \$1.842 million in value

Oakland - As a result of an enforcement action initiated by the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board, Palmaz Vineyards and Winery in Napa Valley has worked together with the Water Board, through a settlement agreement, to create wetland restoration and temporal loss projects valuing \$1.842 million. The Water Board initiated an enforcement action because cave spoils were deposited on and vineyards were planted over areas believed to have contained wetlands. Palmaz Vineyards and Winery has agreed to remove approximately 1.7 acres of fill material and vineyard out of the 10.5 acres planted in the area in order to create and enhance wetland habitat.

The settlement includes two major components. The first component will be the wetland restoration project designed to increase wetland and upland plant habitat in designated areas. The project design includes the remediation of fill areas, restoration of wetland habitat areas, planting and wetland monitoring and management; the isolation of existing and restored wetland areas from potential agricultural runoff; and re-adjusting access routes and constructing new roadways for the remaining vineyards.

The second component is a temporal loss mitigation project on Hagen Creek that focuses on supporting and protecting existing watercourses and wildlife. Significant compensatory habitats will be provided, with emphasis on replacement of non-native and undesirable vegetation with native trees and shrubs that will favor desirable hydrologic conditions along the stream. Ancillary benefits of these key activities will include wildlife and riparian habitat improvements, water quality improvements, and soil loss prevention.

The two components of the project are scheduled to take about three years to complete, with continued maintenance for several years thereafter. Rather than simply paying a penalty, Palmaz Vineyards and Winery has chosen the environmentally responsible approach in remedying the situation by restoring wetlands and working to enhance the environment.

The San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board's mission is to preserve, enhance and restore the quality of California's water resources, and ensure their proper allocation and efficient use for the benefit of present and future generations.