



Enforcement News

Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

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CENTRAL COAST WATER BOARD FINES CITY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO \$57,130 FOR SEWAGE SPILLS

SAN LUIS OBISPO – The City of San Luis Obispo has agreed to pay a fine of \$57,130 to settle allegations by the Central Coast Water Board that it violated water quality laws by spilling sewage into local creeks.

The penalties are in response to four specific spills from the city's wastewater collection system. In September 2008, 3,000 gallons reached San Luis Obispo Creek; in February 2009, 30,000 gallons reached Orcutt Creek; In March 2009, 9,000 gallons were spilled into Old Garden Creek; and in January 2010, 1,000 gallons were spilled into Stenner Creek.

The Central Coast Water Board regulates wastewater collection and treatment systems at dozens of municipalities and industrial facilities throughout the central coast area. The Water Board requires extensive treatment and monitoring to ensure water quality protection and takes permit violations seriously, especially when they lead to pollution. In such cases, the Water Board aggressively pursues enforcement actions.

The Water Board and the city jointly negotiated a settlement to resolve the violations.

The Central Coast Water Board is responsible for protecting and restoring water quality in the 300-mile-long coastal region from southern San Mateo and Santa Clara counties to the northern part of Ventura County.

For more information on the Central Coast Water Quality Control Board, visit their home page at: <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/>