



Enforcement News

Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

CENTRAL VALLEY WATER BOARD ISSUES \$682,500 FINE TO WINEMUCCA TRADING COMPANY, LTD., OWNERS OF THE FORMER SHASTA PAPER MILL

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 10, 2011

Contact: Robert Crandall
Phone: (530) - 224-4845

(Note to editors: Winemucca is the correct spelling of the company.)

REDDING – The Central Valley Water Board has issued an Administrative Civil Liability Complaint against Winemucca Trading Company, Ltd., owners of the former Shasta Paper Mill in Anderson. The \$682,500 penalty was issued for Winemucca’s failure to comply with the terms of a Cleanup and Abatement Order issued by the Central Valley Water Board in 2004.

On April 1, 2011, Robert Crandall, Assistant Executive Officer of the Central Valley Water Board, issued the Administrative Civil Liability Complaint to Winemucca Trading Company, Ltd. for its failure to remediate significant environmental hazards at the former mill site. Winemucca acquired the site at a bankruptcy auction for \$500,001 in 2004, after Shasta Acquisition Inc., doing business as Plainwell Paper Shasta Paper Company, Inc., filed for bankruptcy.

Prior to the sale, numerous above ground storage tanks were identified as containing large volumes of potentially hazardous materials. Also on the site were approximately 120,000 cubic yards of sediment containing elevated concentrations of dioxin. The sediment was found in clarifiers, holding basins, and wastewater treatment lagoons. Winemucca has thus far failed to remove and properly dispose of most of this waste.

Costs associated with cleanup of the former mill site, including cleanup of the 31-acre wastewater treatment lagoons used to treat liquid waste from the facility, are estimated from \$3 to \$5 million. As stated in the Complaint, the Central Valley Water Board’s Prosecution Team believes that Winemucca “thoroughly failed to conduct remediation commensurate with the magnitude of environmental harm posed by the waste still present at the site.” Furthermore, “Winemucca has exhibited a pattern of behavior whereby it routinely misses its own proposed cleanup dates by failing to expend the necessary resources to properly execute its work plans.”

Due to the numerous violations of the Cleanup and Abatement Order, the Central Valley Water Board will continue to press for clean up of this site. Winemucca has 30 days to pay the penalty or to file for petition to the State Water Resources Control Board. The penalty was determined based on factors contained in the State Water Board’s Enforcement Policy,



including a calculation of the economic benefits of non-compliance with the Central Valley Water Board's directives.

For more information, visit the region's website at:
<http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/>