



Enforcement News

Central Valley Water Board Executive Officer Issues \$125,000 Penalty to the City Of Angels

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 8, 2011

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SACRAMENTO – The City of Angels in Calaveras County faces penalties of \$125,000 for violations of the California Water Code and the Federal Clean Water Act. The proposed penalty has been issued because, over the last three years, the city has spilled more than 3.5 million gallons of treated wastewater from its spray irrigation area.

The Executive Officer of the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) issued the \$125,000 Administrative Civil Liability Complaint to the City of Angels for violations of the California Water Code, the city's Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) and a Cleanup and Abatement Order.

Between September 2008 and June 2011, the City of Angels spilled 7,000 gallons of wastewater on to land over a one day period, and 3,537,600 gallons of wastewater to surface water over a 26-day period. There were a total of eight spill events. Six of the spills were due to broken irrigation pipes. The other spills were due to irrigation equipment that was damaged by goats and to an electrical outage in a pump. The WDRs prohibit spills of wastewater to surface waters, and require that the City of Angels conduct routine maintenance of its irrigation system and install redundant features to prevent spills. The Cleanup and Abatement Order, issued in 2001, required that the city take actions to prevent spills from its spray irrigation area.

The maximum penalty that could be assessed under the California Water Code for the violations is more than \$35 million. The minimum penalty that may be assessed under the California Water Code is estimated to be \$109,500.

The California Water Code allows discretion in the assessment of penalties. The \$125,000 penalty takes into consideration the fact that the City of Angels' budget includes money for a Phase I Sprayfield Improvement Project and that the city proposes to complete all improvements and upgrades in the sprayfield by the end of 2012.

The Central Valley Water Board is a California state agency responsible for preservation and enhancement of quality in water resources. The Central Valley Water Board may consider the complaint at its regular public board meeting on November 30 through December 2, 2011.

This complaint is available for public review on the Water Board's website at http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_decisions/tentative_orders/. Public comments are due by October 6, 2011.