Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CENTRAL COAST WATER BOARD FINES BRADLEY LAND COMPANY
$60,000 FOR CLEAN WATER ACT VIOLATIONS

SAN LUIS OBISPO – Bradley Land Company has agreed to pay a fine of $60,000 to settle allegations by the Central Coast Water Board that it violated laws against filling waterways without a permit.

Protecting riparian areas, wetlands, and their buffer zones is one of the Central Coast Water Board's highest priorities. Protecting this habitat is a critical part of protecting water quality, wildlife, and human health. The Water Board will aggressively pursue enforcement actions for illegal activities that degrade riparian and wetland areas.

In 2007, Bradley Land Company and its tenant graded and modified the channel of Green Canyon Creek, southeast of Santa Maria, without first obtaining required permits. Federal and state laws prohibit this type of habitat degradation. The Central Coast Water Board probably would not have permitted the activity even if Bradley had applied for a permit.

In calculating the penalty, the Water Board took into account any profit the dischargers may have made from this illegal activity. Bradley Land Company claimed that its tenant, Main Street Farms, was doing the work to make farming of the property easier.   However, while federal law does include some exceptions for agriculture, converting wetlands and watercourses to agricultural land is not allowed unless properly reviewed and permitted.

The Water Board and Bradley Land Company 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 Board please visit their homepage at: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/