



Enforcement News

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD CENTRAL VALLEY REGION

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\$123,191 Complaint Issued to Del Mar Farms for Waste Discharge Violations In Stanislaus County

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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The Central Valley Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) has issued an Administrative Civil Liability Complaint (Complaint) to Del Mar Farms, Jon Maring, Lee Del Don, and Bernard N. and Barbara C. O'Neill Trust in the amount of \$123,191 for alleged violations of the *Coalition Conditional Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges from Irrigated Lands* in Stanislaus County. The alleged violations involve irrigation return flow discharges from a roughly 424-acre farm operation managed by Del Mar Farms.

Central Valley Water Board staff conducted three investigations during the 2011 crop season and found significant volumes of sediment-laden irrigation return flows discharging from the farmland to a local tributary to the San Joaquin River, which then flows into the Sacramento/San Joaquin Delta. The sediment discharges can impair the use of the water for downstream water users. Metals, pesticides, and pathogens can adhere to sediment particles and can be transported off-farm in sediment laden runoff to the San Joaquin River. Aquatic habitat that supports important fisheries can also be impacted by excessive sediment. The San Joaquin River and the Delta are home to a number of endangered and threatened aquatic species and the Delta supplies about 2/3 of the State's residents with drinking water.

The Complaint is available for public review on the Central Valley Water Board's website at http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_decisions/tentative_orders/ (see tentative orders under Stanislaus County). Public comments are due by **July 9, 2012**.

The Central Valley Water Board may consider the Complaint at its regular board meeting on **August 2-3, 2012**. The Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program regulates commercial irrigated agricultural operations within the Central Valley Water Board's boundaries, which extend from the Oregon border down the portions of Los Angeles County.

The Central Valley Water Board is a California state agency responsible for the preservation and enhancement of quality in water resources. For more information on the Central Valley Water Board, please visit the home page at:
<http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/>