



Enforcement News

Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
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Dollar General Construction Site in Amador County Settles Enforcement Action for Stormwater Violations

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SACRAMENTO – The Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board has reached a settlement with SimonCRE Raylan III LLC, an Arizona-based developer, for alleged stormwater permit violations at its Dollar General construction project in Pioneer, Amador County. SimonCRE enrolled the Dollar General retail store project in the statewide General Permit for Storm Water Discharges Associated with Construction and Land Disturbance Activities, but failed to comply with the requirements to protect local water quality and the environment. SimonCRE agreed to pay \$55,297 and to comply with the permit requirements to ensure that additional environmental damage is halted.

The settlement was reached using a streamlined process that provided SimonCRE an opportunity to quickly resolve the alleged violations that threatened a tributary to the Mokelumne River.

“We take these violations very seriously and we want construction sites across the Central Valley to know we are investigating complaints and taking action to stop further environmental damage,” said Andrew Altevogt, assistant executive officer for the Regional Water Board. “We initiated this fast track approach after SimonCRE or its contractors made a conscious decision not to comply with the basic requirements for the protection of surface waters from their construction activities.”

Water Board staff inspected the site on Oct. 28, 2016, during a rain event. Staff found that SimonCRE had not installed sediment or erosion control measures (also known as best management practices or BMPs) and that sediment-laden runoff was flowing from the site to a tributary of the Mokelumne River. A second inspection on Nov. 2, 2016, found that SimonCRE still had not installed appropriate BMPs. Although not directly observed by staff, it is likely that there were also sediment-laden discharges during rain events on Oct. 27 and Oct. 30.

Discharges of sediment can cloud the receiving water, which reduces the amount of sunlight reaching aquatic plants. These discharges can also clog fish gills, smother aquatic habitat and

spawning areas, and transport other materials such as nutrients, metals, and oil and grease which can negatively impact aquatic life and aquatic habitat.

The owners of any construction site greater than one acre in size must enroll in the General Permit for Storm Water Discharges Associated with Construction and Land Disturbance Activities. Among other items, this permit requires that the owner hire a “storm water professional” to design and install an effective combination of erosion and sediment controls to prevent discharges of sediment-laden stormwater.

“This streamlined approach will allow us to take swift action against owners and their general contractors who attempt to gain an economic advantage by ignoring water quality protections,” said Altevogt.

The Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board is a California state agency responsible for the preservation and enhancement of water quality. For more information, visit the Central Valley Water Board’s [website](#).

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