



# Enforcement News

Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board  
[www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/)

## **Growers Assessed Penalties for Failure to Obtain Water Quality Permits, Submit Reports Required to Prevent Water Pollution**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

March 8, 2017

**Contact:** Sue McConnell

**Phone:** (916) 464-4798

**SACRAMENTO** – The Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board approved penalties for growers in Fresno, Madera, Merced, Stanislaus and Tulare counties who failed to obtain regulatory coverage, or failed to submit required farm evaluations that identify management practices that prevent pollution into surface and groundwater. Penalties ranged from \$8,135 to \$34,490.

“Farmers who fail to obtain regulatory coverage or don’t submit required management practice reports undermine our Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program,” said Andrew Altevogt, assistant executive officer for the Central Valley Water Board. “With these penalties, the Board is sending a strong message that growers must obtain the appropriate permit coverage and coalition members must honor their reporting obligations. The number of penalties assessed demonstrates the Board’s commitment to obtaining compliance with Board orders.”

State law requires commercial irrigated lands to acquire water quality permits to ensure pesticides and fertilizers used on cropland do not run off into streams, or enter groundwater. The permits allow growers to join coalitions that conduct monitoring and provide reports to the Board on behalf of the growers. The permits require coalition members to annually submit a farm evaluation that identifies pollution management practices, surface water discharge points, wellhead protection and other information pertinent to water quality protection.

The penalties approved during the Feb. 23 Board meeting were assessed to five growers who failed to obtain permit coverage, and three growers who failed to provide farm evaluations:

- Baldev & Kamaljit Batth, Fresno County - \$35,490
- Alex V. & Vera A. Kobets, Fresno County - \$10,000
- Gilbert & Enedina Marroquin, Tulare County - \$30,030
- William and Maria Egleston, Merced County – \$23,716
- Brooks & Arlene Rushing, as Individuals and in Their Representative Capacity as Trustees for the Brooks J & Arlene J Rushing Trust, Stanislaus County - \$8,135

- Emma J. Bounds, as an Individual and as Trustee for the Bounds Family Trust, Madera County - \$26,520
- Singh Farms, LLC, Madera County - \$35,490
- Victor Produce, Inc., Merced County - \$35,490

Persons wishing to learn more about the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program (ILRP) can visit the Central Valley Water Board's ILRP website [here](#).

###