



Enforcement News

Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
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Visalia Dairy Issued \$75,600 Penalty, and Cease and Desist Order for failing to comply with Dairy General Order

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SACRAMENTO -- The Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board has issued an administrative civil liability penalty of \$75,600 against Sweeney Dairy of Visalia for failing to file its 2015 annual report on the impacts of its dairy operations on water quality. The Board also adopted a Cease and Desist Order against Sweeney Dairy for failure to comply with requirements set forth in the Dairy General Order.

The Cease and Desist Order requires the owners to resume compliance with all the requirements of the Dairy General Order, including filing annual reports, or face the possibility of additional civil penalties and/or judicial enforcement from the California Office of the Attorney General.

“Fully complying with all requirements of the Dairy General Order is needed to protect water quality. Annual reports are a vital component of the Dairy General Order because they inform the Board about manure handling activities at dairies, and nutrient management planning on dairy cropland,” said Clay Rodgers, assistant executive officer for the Central Valley Water Board. “It is critical that dairies adequately implement the requirements of the Dairy General Order including submitting annual reports that show they are taking the steps necessary to protect water quality. In assessing the penalty and adopting the Cease and Desist Order, our Board is recognizing a discharger’s responsibility to comply with orders issued by our Board, including submitting required documents.”

James and Amelia Sweeney, owners of the dairy, have failed to file annual reports required by dairies regulated under the Dairy General Order since 2009. Further site inspections have determined the Sweeneys have failed to implement many other requirements of the Dairy General Order.

The Dairy General Order, first adopted by the Central Valley Water Board in 2007 and revised in 2013, requires dairies to handle waste in ways that preserve and protect water quality. The Order contains a number of requirements, including standards for manure and dairy wastewater storage, and criteria for the application of manure and dairy wastewater to cropland. The Order also contains reporting requirements for regulated dairies, including the submission of annual reports, submission of a Waste Management Plan, implementation of a Nutrient Management Plan, and implementation of groundwater monitoring. Failure to submit any of the required reports is a violation of the Order.

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

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