



Enforcement News

Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
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Central Valley Water Board Issues Penalty to Modoc County Grower for failing to Acquire Water Quality Permit

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The Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board issued a \$19,773 [penalty](#) to Modoc County landowner Renee Larranaga for failing to get the required permit for discharging waste from his irrigated cropland on his 60-acre property located in the Pit River Watershed, a tributary of the Sacramento River.

“Owners of unpermitted irrigated lands are undermining the regulatory program and efforts to mitigate agricultural-related water quality problems. With this penalty the Board is sending a strong message that it’s time for the remaining non-permitted growers to obtain all appropriate regulatory coverage,” said Andrew Altevogt, assistant executive officer for the Central Valley Water Board.

State law requires water quality permits for commercial irrigated lands to ensure waste discharges don’t harm the Central Valley’s rivers and groundwater aquifers.

In March 2014, the Central Valley Water Board issued waste discharge requirements that allowed farmers in the Sacramento River Watershed to join a coalition of growers called the Sacramento Valley Water Quality Coalition. The coalition holds a water quality permit that covers all of its members, conducts monitoring and provides reports to the Central Valley Water Board on behalf of the growers. Growers who don’t join the coalition incur much higher costs associated with conducting their own individual monitoring and reporting directly to the Central Valley Water Board. Landowners whose parcels do not have the required permit are subject to fines and may lose their opportunity to be regulated under the coalition-based permit.

Owners of irrigated cropland can find out how to join a coalition group and get the required regulatory coverage by going to the [Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program Join a Coalition Group webpage](#), or by calling the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program at (916) 464-4611. More information about these fines can be found at the [Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program Compliance and Outreach Activities webpage](#).

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