



Enforcement News

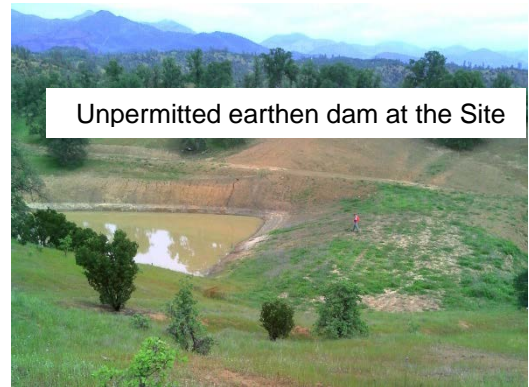
Shasta County Property Owners Fined \$150,000 for Water Quality Violations at Cannabis Grow Site

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SACRAMENTO – The Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board issued a \$150,000 fine against Kongkeo Khamvongsa and Alexandra Kensavath for their failure to clean up a cannabis grow site on property they own in Shasta County. The Regional Board had previously issued a [cleanup and abatement order](#) to them in June 2016.

At a Feb. 8 hearing, the Regional Board determined that Khamvongsa, from Wisconsin, and Kensavath of Fresno failed to restore and monitor their property after Board inspectors found evidence of water quality problems related to the development of the property for cannabis cultivation, including grading of 2.6 acres and construction of an earthen dam without obtaining permits.



These activities resulted in the discharge and potential discharge of waste to several streams on the property that are tributary to Fidler Creek and North Fork Cottonwood Creek. Both creeks provide salmon habitat near the unincorporated community of Ono in western Shasta County.

In addition to the financial penalties, Khamvongsa and Kensavath are legally required to clean up the property. The California Water Code authorizes the Board to issue cleanup and abatement orders to any person causing or threatening to cause impacts to waters of the state, including the owner(s) of the land where those discharges or threatened discharges occurred.

“State and Regional Water Board staff and legal counsel, in conjunction with their colleagues at the Department of Fish and Wildlife, have gone to great lengths to hold Mr. Khamvongsa and Ms. Kensavath accountable for their actions,” said Clint Snyder, Assistant Executive Officer for the Central Valley Water Board.

The investigation and enforcement actions are the result of a multiagency program formed specifically to address an array of adverse environmental impacts caused by cannabis cultivation. The program includes staff from the State Water Board and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

The Central Valley Water Board is a California state agency responsible for the preservation and enhancement of the quality of California’s water resources. For more information, visit <https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley>