



Enforcement News

Hospitality Company Fined \$11,990 for Violating Construction Permit and Unlawfully Discharging to Carbonera Creek

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SAN LUIS OBISPO – The Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Coast Water Board) fined Merced Hospitality, Inc. \$11,990 for violating terms of its permit governing storm water discharges associated with construction and land disturbance activities by allowing sediment to enter a creek near the construction site.

After days of heavy rain, the Central Coast Water Board on March 23, 2018 inspected Merced Hospitality, Inc.'s Lexington Inn & Suites construction site in Scotts Valley and observed an unauthorized discharge of sediment and other materials to Carbonera Creek. Staff determined the company violated the Construction General Permit by failing to maintain effective erosion, sediment and perimeter control best management practices (BMPs), impairing water quality and threatening harm to wildlife habitat.

The beneficial uses of Carbonera Creek in Santa Cruz County include cold freshwater habitat, wildlife habitat, migration of aquatic organisms and fish spawning. The greatest threat is to fish. Stormwater discharges from construction or land disturbances deposit sediment into the creek, adversely impacting their ability to spawn.

The [Central Coast Water Board](#) is responsible for protecting and restoring water quality in the 300-mile-long coastal region from southern San Mateo and Santa Clara counties to the northern part of Ventura County. Protecting aquatic habitat in streams is essential to ensuring water quality and the health of humans and wildlife. Those who engage in harmful and illegal activities will be aggressively pursued and subject to enforcement actions similar to the one issued against Merced Hospitality, Inc. Learn more about the [General Permit for Storm Water Discharges Associated with Construction and Land Disturbance Activities](#).

For copies of the final signed complaint, contact Dominic Roques at Dominic.Roques@waterboards.ca.gov

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CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

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