



# Enforcement News

## CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD CENTRAL VALLEY REGION

<http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley>

### \$46,950 Complaint Issued To Agricultural Firm for Failure to Obtain Regulatory Coverage for Irrigated Lands In Sacramento County

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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The Central Valley Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) has issued an Administrative Civil Liability Complaint (complaint) to Jaime & Ramona Rodriguez Trust (Rodriguez Trust) in the amount of \$46,950 for alleged failure to obtain required regulatory coverage for their discharges of waste from their 300 acres of agricultural land.

Nearly 25,000 farmers with a total of 5 million acres of irrigated agricultural land have already obtained the required regulatory coverage. Those growers have joined water quality coalition groups and pay fees to monitor surface waters in their area and address problems identified by the monitoring efforts. Growers who do not obtain the required regulatory coverage create an unfair competitive advantage over their complaint neighbors.

The Rodriguez Trust had been previously fined \$3,000 in 2009 by the Central Valley Water Board for failure to respond to a Board Order. The Rodriguez Trust had been approved to join their local coalition, but have allegedly failed to do so. In 2011, the Rodriguez Trust was issued an Order requiring either submission of a report of waste discharge or to join a water quality coalition. The Rodriguez Trust failed to respond to the Order and a subsequently issued Notice of Violation.

The Rodriguez Trust properties are located in the Sacramento/San Joaquin Delta. The Delta is home to a number of endangered and threatened aquatic species and the Delta supplies about 2/3 of the State's residents with drinking water. Proper regulatory coverage of the Rodriguez Trust properties would help ensure protection of precious Delta resources.

The complaint is available for public review on the Central Valley Water Board's website at [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board\\_decisions/tentative\\_orders/](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_decisions/tentative_orders/) (see tentative orders under Sacramento County). Public comments are due by **July 9, 2012**.

The Central Valley Water Board may consider the Complaint at its regular board meeting on **August 2-3, 2012**.

The Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program regulates commercial irrigated agricultural operations within the Central Valley Water Board's boundaries, which extend from the Oregon border down the portions of Los Angeles County.

The Central Valley Water Board is a California state agency responsible for the preservation and enhancement of quality in water resources.

For more information on the Central Valley Water Board, please visit the home page at: <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/>