



# Enforcement News

## Monterey One Water to pay \$800,000 for discharges of untreated wastewater into Monterey Bay

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**MONTEREY COUNTY** – On August 13, 2021, the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board approved an \$800,000 settlement agreement with Monterey One Water for unauthorized discharges of approximately 3 million gallons of untreated domestic and municipal wastewater to Monterey Bay and the Pacific Ocean.

On January 19 and 20, 2018, Monterey One Water’s wastewater treatment plant headworks overflowed, causing a discharge of approximately 2,869,230 gallons of untreated wastewater through an ocean outfall two miles offshore. On February 20, 2017 and October 17, 2019, two of Monterey One Water’s sanitary sewer system pump stations in Pacific Grove overflowed, causing unauthorized discharges of approximately 167,107 gallons of untreated wastewater.

Untreated wastewater can contain high levels of suspended solids, pathogenic organisms, toxic pollutants, nutrients, oxygen-demanding organic compounds, oil and grease, and other pollutants that can degrade water quality, harm aquatic life, and threaten public health. Monterey County Health Department issued beach closures and health warnings after all three overflows.

“We work hard with local entities to prevent these types of overflows,” said Dr. Jean-Pierre Wolff, Chair of the Central Coast Water Board. “We take these violations and threats to the environment very seriously. This settlement demonstrates our and Monterey One Water’s collaborative commitment to protecting and restoring our region’s waters.”

Under the settlement agreement, Monterey One Water agreed to pay \$10,000 to the State Water Board Cleanup and Abatement Account and \$790,000 toward a supplemental environmental project consisting of assessment, repair, and replacement of defective privately-owned residential sewer laterals within disadvantaged community areas in the Castroville Community Services District’s service area. The project aims to improve the sanitary sewer system integrity to reduce the potential for rainwater





entering and sewage exiting the system, thereby preventing sanitary sewer overflows and protecting local surface water and groundwater quality and public health.

*The [Central Coast Water Board](#) is responsible for protecting and restoring water quality in a 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, the ocean, and groundwater is essential to ensuring water quality and protecting the health of humans and wildlife.*