

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
CENTRAL VALLEY REGION

ADMINISTRATIVE CIVIL LIABILITY ORDER R5-2013-XXXX

IN THE MATTER OF

JAMES G. AND AMELIA M. SWEENEY
SWEENEY DAIRY
TULARE COUNTY

This Order is issued to the James G. and Amelia M. Sweeney (hereafter Discharger) pursuant to California Water Code (CWC) section 13268, which authorizes the imposition of Administrative Civil Liability. This Order is based on findings that the Discharger violated provisions of Waste Discharge Requirements General Order for Existing Milk Cow Dairies, Order R5-2007-0035 (hereinafter General Order).

The Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board or Board) finds the following:

1. The Discharger owns and operates the Sweeney Dairy (Dairy) located at 30712 Road 170, Visalia, California, County of Tulare.
2. The Dairy is regulated by the Waste Discharge Requirements General Order for Existing Milk Cow Dairies, Order R5-2007-0035 (hereinafter General Order), which was issued by the Central Valley Water Board on 3 May 2007. Monitoring and Reporting Program R5-2007-0035 (hereinafter MRP) accompanies the General Order. The General Order and the MRP contain reporting requirements for dairies regulated by the General Order. The General Order became effective on 9 May 2007.
3. CWC section 13267 authorizes the Regional Water Boards to require the submittal of technical and monitoring reports from any person who has discharged, discharges, or is suspected of having discharged or discharging, or who proposes to discharge to waters of the state.
4. The General Order and the MRP required the Discharger to submit the 2011 Annual Report by 1 July 2012 pursuant to the Central Valley Water Board's authority in accordance with CWC section 13267.
5. The Discharger violated CWC section 13267 by failing to submit the 2011 Annual Report required by the General Order and Monitoring and Reporting Program by the required deadline of 1 July 2012.

6. Under the MRP, the Executive Officer has authority pursuant to Water Code section 13267 to order the installation of monitoring wells based on the threat that an individual dairy or dairies pose to water quality. On 4 May 2012, the Executive Officer issued a Water Code section 13267 Order to the Discharger that directed the Discharger to implement groundwater monitoring at the Dairy. Specifically, the 13267 Order directed the Discharger to submit either: 1) written notification, by 25 May 2012, that the Discharger has joined a coalition group that will develop a representative groundwater monitoring program as an alternative to implementing an individual groundwater monitoring program at the Dairy; or 2) an acceptable groundwater monitoring well installation and sampling plan (MWISP) to the Central Valley Water Board by 29 June 2012.
7. On 16 August 2012, the Central Valley Water Board staff issued a Notice of Violation pertaining to the missing report notifying the Discharger that the 2011 Annual Report had not been received. The Notice of Violation requested that the delinquent report be submitted as soon as possible to minimize potential liability.
8. On 19 July 2012, the Central Valley Water Board staff issued a Notice of Violation notifying the Discharger that the MWISP had not been received by 29 June 2012. The Notice of Violation also requested that the delinquent MWISP be submitted as soon as possible to avoid incurring any additional liability.
9. On 15 February 2013, the Central Valley Water Board staff issued a courtesy pre-filing settlement letter notifying the Discharger that staff was in the process of assessing civil liability for failure to submit the 2011 Annual Report and the MWISP.
10. On 9 May 2013, the Executive Officer issued Administrative Civil Liability Complaint (Complaint) No. R5-2013-0539 to the Discharger recommending that the Central Valley Water Board assess the Discharger an administrative civil liability in the amount of \$20,400 pursuant to CWC section 13268 for the failure to submit the 2011 Annual Report and failure to submit an MWISP.
11. Issuance of this Administrative Civil Liability Order to enforce CWC Division 7, Chapter 5.5 is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (Pub. Resources Code § 21000 et seq.), in accordance with California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15321(a)(2).
12. This Order is effective and final upon issuance by the Central Valley Water Board. Payment must be received by the Central Valley Water Board no later than thirty (30) days from the date on which this Order is issued.

13. In the event that the Discharger fails to comply with the requirements of this Order, the Executive Officer or her delegee is authorized to refer this matter to the Attorney General's Office for enforcement.
14. Any person aggrieved by this action of the Central Valley Water Board may petition the State Water Board to review the action in accordance with CWC section 13320 and California Code of Regulations, title 23, sections 2050 and following. The State Water Board must receive the petition by 5:00 p.m., 30 days after the date that this Order becomes final, except that if the thirtieth day following the date that this Order becomes final falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or state holiday, the petition must be received by the State Water Board by 5:00 p.m. on the next business day. Copies of the law and regulations applicable to filing petitions may be found on the Internet at:
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/public_notices/petitions/water_quality or will be provided upon request.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that pursuant to section 13323 of the CWC, the Discharger shall make a cash payment of \$20,400 (check payable to the State Water Pollution Cleanup and Abatement Account) no later than thirty days from the date of issuance of this Order. I, Kenneth D. Landau, Assistant Executive Officer, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, correct copy of an Order issued by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region, and that such action occurred on XX July 2013.

Kenneth D. Landau
Assistant Executive Officer