

Press Release
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Enforcement Action against ECO Resources, Inc. for Violations Associated with the Operation of Wastewater Treatment Facilities

SACRAMENTO – The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) has reached a \$1.25 million settlement with ECO Resources, Inc. (ECO), a subsidiary of Southwest Water Co., for alleged misconduct related to the operation of multiple wastewater treatment facilities in California. ECO is a registered contract operator with the State Water Board that provides operations and maintenance for publicly-owned wastewater treatment facilities.

After a lengthy investigation of ECO's operational practices at facilities primarily located in the Central Valley, the State Water Board alleged that numerous discharge violations were attributable to poor maintenance, inadequate staffing and insufficient operator training. In addition, the State Water Board alleged extensive violations associated with ECO's failure to comply with monitoring and reporting requirements.

"The operator certification and contract operator registration programs are an essential aspect of ensuring compliance with waste discharge requirements that protect the quality of California's water. We will make every effort to ensure that those persons who fail to operate wastewater treatment facilities in a responsible manner are held accountable," said Reed Sato, Director of the State Water Board's Office of Enforcement.

Under the terms of the settlement, ECO will pay \$500,000 in civil liability within 30 days, in addition to \$250,000 in reimbursement for the State Water Board's costs of enforcement. ECO is also required to spend an additional \$500,000 in enhancements designed to track compliance and prevent future violations. ECO did not admit to the violations or the associated liability.

A copy of the settlement order can be found on the State Water Board's website at: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/enforcement/#actions

The State Water Board's mission is to preserve, enhance and restore the quality of California's water resources, and to ensure their proper allocation and efficient use for the benefit of present and future generations.