



Media Release

News Release

California Regional Water Quality Control Board
Central Coast Region
895 Aerovista Place, Suite 101
San Luis Obispo, California 93401-7906
Phone (805) 549-3147 FAX (805) 543-0397
<http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast>

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CONTACT: Michael Thomas
Phone: (805) 542-4623

CENTRAL COAST WATER BOARD PROPOSES FINES RANGING FROM \$2,070 TO \$19,410 TO SIX FARMING OPERATIONS FOR ALLEGED VIOLATIONS OF THE IRRIGATED LANDS AGRICULTURAL ORDER

SAN LUIS OBISPO – Six irrigated land farming operations are facing fines ranging from \$2,070 to \$19,410 for alleged violations of the Irrigated Lands Agricultural Order.

The Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board's Assistant Executive Officer has issued administrative civil liability complaints for failure to submit either cooperative monitoring fees or individual monitoring reports in violation of the irrigated lands agricultural order.

The six farming operations failed to pay cooperative monitoring fee invoices from Central Coast Water Quality Preservation, Inc., the third-party organization that implements the Cooperative Monitoring Program. This program is intended to lower the individual farming operations' costs of monitoring and reporting by sharing costs with a large number of other farms. Alternatively, each farming operation has the option of electing to conduct its own monitoring and reporting.

The farming operations involved continued operations without paying their share of cooperative monitoring fees, thus leaving the support of the monitoring program to the farms that are complying with the Agricultural Order. The six alleged violators also did not conduct individual monitoring and reporting, and therefore did not pay the associated individual monitoring costs.

The complaints are available for public review on the Central Coast Water Board's website at: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/board_decisions/tentative_orders/index.shtml

The Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board is a California state agency tasked with preservation and enhancement of water quality. The Water Board is scheduled to





consider the complaints on October 12, 2012, in San Luis Obispo.

State Water Resources Control Board
Office of Public Affairs
Phone: 916.341.5254
Fax: 916.341.5252
Email: info@waterboards.ca.gov