



Enforcement News

San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board

San Diego Regional Water Board Approves \$1.3 Million in Water Quality Settlements - Local Projects to Receive \$445,000

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SAN DIEGO --- On September 14, 2011 the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Diego Region (San Diego Regional Water Board), approved two settlement agreements for \$1,308,150 in civil liability against parties in Riverside and Orange Counties.

In one action, the San Diego Water Board approved a settlement with the Santa Margarita Water District to resolve liability associated with a 2.3 million gallon untreated sewage spill to Tijeras Creek and the Pacific Ocean, Orange County in March 2010. Under terms of the agreement, the District will pay \$445,000 in liability to the State Water Resources Control Board's Cleanup and Abatement Account. In addition, \$140,000 in liability will fund one year of a Supplemental Environmental Project to restore and protect riparian habitat at Audubon Starr Ranch Sanctuary in Orange County. (What does this accomplish?) Additionally, \$305,000 in liability would be pardoned to help fund an Enhanced Compliance Action conducted by the Santa Margarita Water District to relocate a sanitary sewer line away from Tijeras Creek to prevent pollution.

By separate action, the San Diego Water Board approved a settlement with Roripaugh Valley Restoration, LLC to resolve long-standing water quality violations at the Roripaugh Ranch Residential Development site in Temecula, Riverside County. Under terms of the agreement, Roripaugh Valley Restoration, LLC will pay \$418,150 to settle an outstanding liability Order issued in 2007 against former owners of the development project, and it will implement storm water and habitat mitigation corrective actions to prevent water pollution and protect aquatic habitat.

"These settlement agreements represent forward-looking solutions to chronic threats to water quality in our region," said James Smith, Assistant Executive Officer. "Each is structured to deter future violations and compel the parties to take significant corrective actions that will protect and enhance local waters."

The San Diego Water Board protects and restores water quality in the southwest portion of the State, including parts of San Diego, Riverside, and Orange Counties.