



Enforcement News

Central Valley Water Board penalizes unpermitted growers

Water quality permits protect rivers, streams and groundwater

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Contact: [Blair Robertson](#)—Information Officer

SACRAMENTO – The Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board has reached [settlements](#) with two San Joaquin County growers who failed to obtain required water quality permit coverage for irrigated agricultural land.

J. S. Batth, Inc. and Jagpal S. Batth agreed to pay penalties of \$5,000 each for failing to enroll 72 and 124 acres of cropland, respectively, under the [Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program](#) (ILRP). The program helps protect rivers, streams and groundwater from pollution associated with commercial irrigated agriculture.

While the penalties are modest, regional water board officials say the enforcement actions underscore the importance of compliance and serve as a warning to growers who remain outside the program.

“Most growers have enrolled and are meeting their responsibilities under the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program,” said John J. Baum, assistant executive officer for the Central Valley Regional Water Board. “These cases send a clear message that growers who fail to obtain required permit coverage will face enforcement action and penalties.”

The ILRP establishes waste discharge requirements for commercial irrigated lands. Growers may comply by joining a local water quality coalition or by obtaining individual permit coverage.

In San Joaquin County and the Delta area, growers can enroll through the San Joaquin County and Delta Water Quality Coalition, which conducts monitoring and reporting on behalf of participating growers. Growers who choose individual permit coverage are subject to separate monitoring and reporting requirements.

Property owners with irrigated agricultural land who are uncertain about their compliance status are encouraged to contact the regional water board or their local coalition.

For information about coalition enrollment, visit the [Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program](#) webpage or call (916) 464-4611.





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The Central Valley Water Board is a state agency responsible for protecting water quality across a vast region that includes 11,350 miles of streams, 579,110 acres of lakes, and the largest contiguous groundwater basin in California. The region spans approximately 60,000 square miles—about 40 percent of the state—and includes all or parts of 38 counties.