



# Enforcement News

## Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

<http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/>

### Malaga County Water District Fined \$1 Million for Failure to Implement Wastewater Pretreatment Program

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**SACRAMENTO** – The Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) recently approved an [Administrative Civil Liability Order](#) for more than \$1 million against Malaga County Water District (Malaga) for failure to fully implement a federally mandated wastewater pretreatment program and submit wastewater treatment capacity reports.

“Malaga’s failure to timely implement a compliant pretreatment program has undermined its ability to properly regulate industrial facilities discharging to its wastewater treatment facility. It has put the public and workers at risk and undermined the Central Valley Water Board’s oversight role to protect water quality,” said Clay Rodgers, assistant executive officer for the Central Valley Water Board.

Malaga’s wastewater treatment plant serves a user-base in Fresno County that is predominantly industrial, with only about 10 to 20 percent of its wastewater flows coming from residential users. The purpose of a pretreatment program is to ensure that wastewater from industrial users is properly treated prior to discharge into the collection system to prevent damage to the collection system and wastewater treatment plant.

A proper pretreatment program protects workers and the public from hazards, such as toxic fumes or explosions; pollutants passing through the wastewater treatment plant into receiving waters; industrial pollutants from interfering with the treatment performance of the plant; and sludge contamination. It also improves opportunities for wastewater and sludge reclamation.

The cease and desist order violation cited in the Order was based on Malaga’s failure to submit an adequate and complete study of the wastewater facility’s treatment and disposal capacity from June 2008 through December 2014.

Malaga violated its wastewater discharge permit through failure to issue adequate industrial-user permits; failure to review and analyze industrial user self-monitoring



reports; failure to sample industrial users annually; failure to publish a list of industrial users in significant non-compliance; failure to evaluate the need for a sludge control plan; and failure to submit timely, complete quarterly and annual pretreatment reports containing required information. The total cost of the Administrative Civil Liability Order against Malaga is \$1,036,728.

The Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board is a California state agency responsible for the preservation and enhancement of the quality of California's water resources. For more information, visit the Central Valley Water Board's [website](#).

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