



Enforcement News

Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
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RELP Metro LLC Agrees to Settlement for Stormwater Violations at its 68-acre Metro Air Park

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Contact: Wendy Wyels
Phone: (916) 464-4835

SACRAMENTO – The Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board has reached a \$214,920 [settlement agreement](#) with RELP Metro LLC for alleged stormwater permit violations at its 68-acre Metro Air Park construction project in Sacramento.

RELP Metro enrolled the project in the statewide General Permit for Storm Water Discharges Associated with Construction and Land Disturbance Activities, but failed to comply with the requirements to protect local water quality and the environment. Regional Water Board and Sacramento County staff inspected the site numerous times in December 2016 and January 2017, and found that the project was not prepared for rain storms, as required by the General Permit.

Staff discovered that RELP Metro's contractors had not installed adequate sediment and erosion control measures, resulting in sediment-laden and alkaline runoff to flow into Sacramento County's storm drain system and a nearby drainage ditch during rain storms. Both conveyance systems discharged to the Sacramento River.

"We are investigating construction site complaints and taking immediate action to stop further environmental damage," said Andrew Altevogt, assistant executive officer for the Regional Water Board. "We initiated this fast track approach after RELP Metro, or its contractors, made a conscious decision not to comply with the basic requirements for the protection of surface waters from their construction activities."

The settlement was reached using a streamlined process that provided RELP Metro an opportunity to quickly resolve the alleged violations that threatened a tributary to the Sacramento River. By late January, following several notices of violation, RELP Metro installed a stormwater treatment system at the site to prevent additional permit violations.

Discharges of sediment can cloud the receiving water, which reduces the amount of sunlight reaching aquatic plants. These discharges can also clog fish gills, smother aquatic habitat and spawning areas, and transport other materials such as nutrients, metals, and oil and grease which, along with high alkalinity caused by runoff from construction materials, can negatively impact aquatic life and habitat.

The owners of any construction site greater than 1 acre in size must enroll in the [General Permit for Storm Water Discharges Associated with Construction and Land Disturbance Activities](#). Among other items, this permit requires that the owner hire a “storm water professional” to design and install an effective combination of erosion and sediment controls to prevent discharges of sediment-laden stormwater.

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

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