



# Media Release

## *Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board*

### Central Valley Water Board Implementing Enforcement Actions for Alleged Unpermitted Discharge of Hydraulic Fracking Waste

**For Immediate Release:**  
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**Fresno** – The Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) has issued an investigative enforcement order to Vintage Production California, an oil company conducting hydraulic fracking in a recently drilled oil well near the City of Shafter and the North Shafter Oil Field in Kern County. The operation allegedly discharged hydraulic fracking wastewater into an unlined retention pond without the proper permits, posing a risk to surface and ground water quality.

Central Valley Water Board Executive Officer Pamela Creedon issued the investigative order on April 4 under California Water Code Section 13267 giving Vintage Production California LLC until May 6 to report back to the Board with specific details about the operation of the well, which is located in an area where hydraulic fracking stimulation is used to enhance oil and gas production. The order requires the company to provide a technical report characterizing the discharge water, identifying impacts to surface and groundwater quality and to provide the Board with a plan on how it will come into compliance with environmental regulations. The Central Valley Water Board's concern is that the existing operation could threaten area waters with wastewater discharge from fracking activity.

"When any unpermitted water discharge activities are brought to our attention, especially one that may involve hazardous materials, we will move swiftly to ensure our regional surface and ground waters are not compromised," Creedon said. "Following our investigation we will take the appropriate steps, which could result in the issuance of one or more enforcement orders that may include a cease and desist order, a cleanup and abatement order, and may also include civil liabilities."

The Board took swift action, after a YouTube video at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mx671gbmkY> was brought to its attention. The video shows what appears to be hydraulic fracking activities by Vintage Production California and the unpermitted discharge of significant quantities of hydraulic fracking wastewater being dumped into an unlined pond in violation of California Water Code and applicable water quality regulations. Proper fracking operations in the region use portable tanks that capture hydraulic fracking wastewater and contain it for proper

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disposal, or obtain the required environmental permits to discharge the material into systems designed to protect surface and ground water quality.

The Central Valley Water Board Code Enforcement Order is available at:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board\\_decisions/adopted\\_orders/kern/directive13267\\_vintage.pdf](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_decisions/adopted_orders/kern/directive13267_vintage.pdf)

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 on the Central Valley Water Board, please visit the home page at:

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

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