



Enforcement News

Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board
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L.A. Regional Water Board Proposes \$5.75 Million Penalty Against City of Industry for Water Quality Violations at San Gabriel River

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Nov. 2, 2015

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LOS ANGELES – The Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board’s (Regional Water Board) assistant executive officer has issued an Administrative Civil Liability Complaint proposing a liability of \$5.75 million against the City of Industry for alleged violations of the Clean Water Act and California Water Code for unauthorized grading activities in the East Fork of the San Gabriel River that is critical habitat for threatened species.

In May 2012 the city allegedly engaged in grading activities without a permit from the United States Army Corps of Engineers, or a Clean Water Act Section 401 state water quality certification from the Regional Water Board. The work resulted in the discharge of approximately 880,607 gallons (4,360 cubic yards) of river cobbles into the East Fork of the San Gabriel River.

Department of Fish and Wildlife and Regional Water Board staff observed alleged evidence of grading on the banks and bed of the East Fork of the San Gabriel River near the Railroad Car Bridge and nearby Arizona crossing in Follows Camp, which is owned by the City of Industry.

“The egregious nature of the city’s unpermitted grading activities in pristine waters designated as critical habitat is reflected by the liability proposed in this Complaint. Additionally, the city’s disregard for the regulatory permitting process is of great concern to the Regional Board,” said Regional Board Assistant Executive Officer Paula Rasmussen.

This section of the San Gabriel River is located within the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument, as designated by President Barack Obama in October 2014. The San Gabriel River is designated as a critical habitat for the federally-threatened Santa Ana sucker fish. Spawning typically occurs from mid-March to early June in shallow, coarse-bedded areas of streams and rivers, also known as riffles. City of Industry’s alleged unauthorized activities took place during the typical spawning period for the Santa Ana sucker.

Grading the riverbed flattens the riffles and removes a combination of gravel and rubble boulders used by the fish as part of its spawning habitat. Sediment discharges can cloud the



receiving water, clog fish gills, smother aquatic habitat and spawning areas, and impede navigation.

The total of the Administrative Civil Liability Complaint is \$5,758,791, and it will be heard before a Hearing Panel of the Regional Water Board on Jan. 25, 2016.

For more information and to see the complaint, visit the Regional Board's enforcement [website](#).

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