



North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

June 25, 2021

Certified Mail 7016 2070 0000 6486 1909

Colin Billings and Jesse Hill
PO Box 147
Miranda, CA 95553

To Whom It May Concern:

Subject: Notice of Violation and Transmittal of Inspection Report for May 26, 2021 Inspection of Humboldt County Assessor's Parcel 222-156-014-000

File: Cannabis Program Inspections, Humboldt County, May 26, 2021, CIWQS Place ID 874796

This letter is to notify you of observed violations of the requirements listed below, and cited in Attachment A, at the property identified as Humboldt County Assessor's Parcel Numbers: 222-156-014 (the Property):

1. California Water Code (Water Code) Section 13260

On May 26, 2021, North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) staff (Staff) inspected the Property and observed active cannabis cultivation occurring in hoop-house style greenhouses and outdoors uncovered. Accordingly, this letter directs you to address the violations noticed herein. Within 30 days, please contact Regional Water Board staff to discuss your plan to correct the observed violations.

Background

On May 26, 2021, staff from the Regional Water Board, accompanied by staff of California Department of Fish and Wildlife and personnel from the Humboldt County Sheriff's Office, inspected the Property. The purpose of the inspection was to evaluate onsite development and conditions, and to identify and assess any impacts or threatened impacts to the quality and beneficial uses of waters of the state.

GREGORY A. GIUSTI , CHAIR | MATTHIAS ST. JOHN, EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Attached is a copy of the water quality inspection report (Attachment B –Facilities Inspection Report and Attachment C – Inspection Map and Photolog). Please review the inspection report carefully and completely. The inspection report contains recommendations for correcting observed violations and advises you of the Regional Water Board permits necessary for instream work and projects/activities that result in discharges of waste to receiving waters.

Relevant Requirements

During the inspection, Regional Water Board staff identified several features and conditions on the Property that represent violations of water quality requirements and regulations. Attachment A – Regulatory Citations, provides references to these, and related, requirements and regulations.

Observed Violations

As documented in the May 26, 2021 inspection report, Regional Water Board staff observed violations of the California Water Code. Staff observed these violations at Property locations identified in the inspection report as CA1 and CA2.

Directive to Obtain Regulatory Coverage Prior to Future Activities Involving or Resulting in Discharges of Waste to Waters of the State

During the May 26, 2021, inspection, staff observed cannabis cultivation operations of sufficient size and scope to require regulatory coverage under the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) Order No. WQ-2019-0001-DWQ, *General Waste Discharge Requirements and Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges of Waste Associated with Cannabis Cultivation Activities* (Statewide General Order).

Please be aware that, pursuant to Water Code sections 13260 and 13264, if you elect to resume/continue cannabis cultivation on the subject Property, you must either:

- 1) Enroll the property under the Statewide General Order by providing the information required in the online application process. The application can be accessed at: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/cannabis/
Submit the application fee within **30 days** of submitting the on-line application. Failure to submit the application fee within 30 days will result in the application being voided and authorization terminated. Payments shall be identified using the Fee Payment Application Number (found on the Notice of Receipt). All checks or money orders shall be made payable to: "State Water Resources Control Board," and shall be delivered to:

(By US Mail):

Accounting Office
Attn: Water Quality Fees – Cannabis General Order
P.O. Box 1888
Sacramento, CA 95812-1888

- 2) File a Report of Waste Discharge in order to obtain individual Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) specific to your property.

Please submit the appropriate documents and payments to:

North Coast Water Board
Attn: Cannabis Permitting
5550 Skylane Boulevard, Suite A
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

Water Code section 13260 states, in relevant part:

- (a) Each of the following persons shall file with the appropriate regional board a report of the discharge, containing the information which may be required by the regional board:

- (1) Any person discharging waste, or proposing to discharge waste, within any region that could affect the quality of the waters of the state, other than into a community sewer system.

Water Code section 13264 states, in relevant part:

- (a) No person shall initiate any new discharge of waste or make any material changes in any discharge...prior to the filing of the report required by Section 13260 and no person shall take any of these actions after filing the report but before whichever of the following occurs first:
 - (1) The issuance of waste discharge requirements pursuant to Section 13263.

Failure to comply with Water Code sections 13260 and 13264 may result in an administrative civil liability under Water code sections 13261 and 13265 not to exceed \$1,000 per violation for each day in which each violation occurs.

Additional Potential Liabilities

The Regional Water Board is in the process of considering whether the violations of the Water Code and the Basin Plan warrant further enforcement. We encourage you to take steps, to correct the violations as soon as possible, securing any applicable permits from this and other agencies prior to conducting work. Please note that the existing conditions, as observed and documented in the Inspection Report, may represent continuing violations of the Water Code and Basin Plan.

Please note that correcting the conditions of non-compliance at the Property does not preclude enforcement for the violations alleged in this notice. As noted above, the

Regional Water Board reserves its right to fully enforce the law against any violation and threatened violation by taking enforcement actions such as a cleanup and abatement order, time schedule order, administrative civil liabilities, and referral to the California Attorney General's office. Administrative civil liabilities may be assessed on a daily basis in the amount up to \$5,000 for each day the violation occurs or up to \$10 per gallon, but not both pursuant to Water Code section 13350.

Inspection Report Recommendations

As mentioned above, the May 26, 2021 Inspection Report provides recommendations to correct the alleged violations, as well as to address features and conditions that threaten to impact water quality. **Within 30 days of this letter**, please advise Regional Water Board staff Shannon Utley of your intentions, plan, and schedule to implement recommendations in the inspection report. If you have questions about what is required of you to comply with the requirements outlined above, and to advise as to your plan and schedule to correct the alleged violations, please contact Regional Water Board staff Shannon Utley by email at Shannon.Utley@waterboards.ca.gov.

Future correspondence regarding this matter will be sent to you at this address unless an alternative address is provided to the Regional Water Board. Failure to accept mail from the Regional Water Board is not a valid excuse for non-compliance with any future enforcement orders, and a failure to respond or otherwise appear at a future enforcement proceeding could subject you to a default order and the imposition of administrative civil liability.

You may also contact me at Mona.Dougherty@waterboards.ca.gov or by phone at (707) 445-6129. Additionally, we are available to meet with you if you wish to discuss this letter or our waste discharge regulatory programs in further detail.

Sincerely,

Mona Dougherty, P.E.
Senior Water Resource Control Engineer
Northern Cannabis Permitting Unit

210625_Billings&Hill_NOV

Attachments: Attachment A - Regulatory Citations
 Attachment B – Facilities Inspection Report
 Attachment C – Inspection Map and Photolog

Certified Mail – Return Receipt requested

cc: North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

Northcoast.Cannabis@waterboards.ca.gov

Claudia Villacorta, Claudia.Villacorta@waterboards.ca.gov

Kason Grady, Kason.Grady@waterboards.ca.gov

Shannon Utley, Shannon.Utley@waterboards.ca.gov

Division of Water Rights

Stormer Feiler, Stormer.Feiler@waterboards.ca.gov

Taro Murano, Taro.Murano@waterboards.ca.gov

Department of Fish and Wildlife

Ryan Bourque, Ryan.Bourque@wildlife.ca.gov

Scott Bauer, Scott.Bauer@wildlife.ca.gov

Humboldt County Sheriff's Office

Sergeant Conan Moore, cmoore@co.humboldt.ca.us

Deputy Shane Steele, ssteele@co.humboldt.ca.us

Attachment A – Regulatory Citations

Regulatory Section	Citation
California Water Code Section 13260	<p>“(a) Each of the following persons shall file with the appropriate regional board a report of the discharge, containing the information that may be required by the regional board:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(1) A person discharging waste, or proposing to discharge waste, within any region that could affect the quality of the waters of the state, other than into a community sewer system.(2) A person who is a citizen, domiciliary, or political agency or entity of this state discharging waste, or proposing to discharge waste, outside the boundaries of the state in a manner that could affect the quality of the waters of the state within any region.”
California Water Code Section 13261(a)	“A person who fails to furnish a report or pay a fee under Section 13260 when so requested by a regional board is guilty of a misdemeanor and may be liable civilly in accordance with subdivision (b).”

FACILITIES INSPECTION REPORT

Region/Office: 1	Status: Performed	Reg. Measure ID: 443836
Program Type: IRRICANNABIS	WDID:	Order Number:
Scheduled Insp. Date:	Actual Insp. Date: 05/26/2021	

Discharger Information

Party ID: 625567	Discharger Organization Name: Colin Billings and Jesse Hill	
Address: Po Box 147	City, State, Zip: Miranda, CA 95553	
Discharger Contact Person:	Discharger Contact Phone:	
Discharger Contact Email Address:		

Facility Information

Place ID 874796	Facility Name: Collin Billings and Jesse Hill		
Address:	City, State, Zip: CA		
County: Humboldt	Latitude:	Longitude:	Method:

Lead Inspector Information

Lead Inspector Party ID: 545131	Lead Inspector Name: Shannon Utlej		
Inspector Type:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State	<input type="checkbox"/> State Contractor	<input type="checkbox"/> EPA Contractor
	<input type="checkbox"/> EPA and State (EPA Lead)	<input type="checkbox"/> EPA and State (State Lead)	<input type="checkbox"/> EPA (Regional)

INSPECTION TYPE

Inspection Type: Miscellaneous inspection

VIOLATIONSWere Violations noted during this inspection? Yes No

Violation ID	Violation Type	Occurrence Date	Rank	Description
1091283	Other Codes	05/26/2021	B	California Water Code Section 13260: cannabis cultivation operations of sufficient size and scope to require regulatory coverage under Order No. WQ 2019-0001-DWQ.

INSPECTION SUMMARY (REQUIRED) (500 character limit)

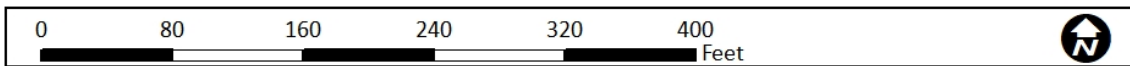
Recommendations:
 Enroll in the State Water Resources Control Board Cannabis Policy and General Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. WQ 2019-0001-DWQ for cannabis cultivation and modify the cannabis cultivation activities and site conditions to comply with the General Order and Policy.

GENERAL NOTES (OPTIONAL) (2000 character limit)

Inspection Description:
 The May 26, 20121 inspection was associated with a criminal search warrant and only portions of the Property were viewed. Please see the attached Map and Appendices for locations and details about features of water quality concern. Active cannabis cultivation was occurring on the Humboldt County Accessor Parcel Number 222-156-014-000 (hereafter the Property) which requires enrollment under General Order No. WQ 2019-0001-DWQ for cultivation area over 2,000 square feet. Active cannabis cultivation was occurring at two locations in hoop-house style greenhouses and fully outdoors. An RV was located on the property near the residence (RES) discharging greywater to the ground surface.


For Internal Use (Optional)					
Reviewed By:	(1)	(2)	(3)		
CIWQS Entry Date:		Regional Board File Number:		CIWQS Inspection ID:	

Attachment C – Inspection Map and Photolog




Site Map of Billings & Hill Property
Humboldt County
5/26/2021

- Point of Interest
- Cultivation Area
- Parcel Boundary
- Watercourse



GALIFORNIA
Water Boards
STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD

Note: 2020 NAP Imagery provided by
California Department of Fish and Wildlife
online mapping services
points of interest may be drawn in by hand



1 Miles

All photographs and GPS locations were taken by Shannon Utley, North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

Photo 1: View of cultivation area CA1 and CA2 looking towards the residence.



Photo 2: A view of a portion of cultivation area CA1 as seen in Photo 1.



Photo 3: View of hoop-house style greenhouses in CA1 upslope of Photo 2.



Photo 4: View down towards residence of hoop-house style greenhouses



Photo 5: View of greywater pipe from an RV located near the residence.



Photo 6: Closer view of greywater pipe from an RV discharging to the ground.



Photo 7: View of water storage tank located on the hill above CA1.



Photo 8: View of adjacent water storage tank located on the hill above CA1.



Photo 9: View of water storage tanks near the top of CA1.



Photo 10: View of hillside drain that discharges to a Class II watercourse.

