

Regional Board Files Complaint Against Developers for Water Quality Violations Related to Cannabis Cultivation in Trinity County

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SACRAMENTO – The California Attorney General's Office, on behalf of the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board, filed a civil complaint in Trinity County Superior Court against Clay Tucker and several corporations he is associated with, alleging they developed properties in the Indian Creek Watershed in Trinity County in violation of federal and state law.

The complaint, filed Sept. 11, 2017, names Tucker, Independence Corporate Offices, Inc., and Rincon Landholdings, LLC as defendants. It alleges the defendants conducted site development and road-building activities without proper permits on properties near Indian Creek, a tributary to the Middle Fork of the Trinity River, causing harmful and unlawful discharge of pollutants and dredge and fill material into the watershed.

Once developed, the properties were either leased or sold to other parties for cannabis cultivation. The complaint seeks civil liability and a preliminary and permanent injunction against the defendants, requiring that they take immediate action to correct the conditions created by their activities.

"Unpermitted and irresponsible land clearing and development activity associated with cannabis cultivation is a serious and significant threat to water quality in the North Coast. This action highlights the Regional Water Board's commitment to focusing its enforcement efforts on those causing the most environmental damage." said Matt St. John, Executive Director of the North Coast Regional Water quality Control Board.

The civil complaint is available here.

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