



Enforcement News

Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

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Visalia Dairy Fined \$34,650 for Failing to Provide Annual Report to Assess the Impacts of Dairy Operations on Water Quality

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SACRAMENTO - The Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board adopted an Administrative Civil Liability Order imposing a penalty of \$34,650 against the Sweeney Dairy located near the City of Visalia for failure to file an annual report. This amount is an increase over previous penalties imposed on the Sweeney Dairy for failure to submit annual reports in prior years.

The Administrative Civil Liability Order states that James and Amelia Sweeney, owners of the Sweeney Dairy, failed to file a 2013 annual report. All dairies regulated by the Reissued Waste Discharge Requirements General Order for Existing Milk Cow Dairies (Dairy General Order) are required to submit annual reports. These reports contain information the Central Valley Water Board needs to assess potential impacts on water quality from dairy operations.

The Dairy General Order, first adopted by the Regional Board in 2007, requires dairies to handle waste in ways that preserve water quality. The Dairy General Order contains a number of requirements, including standards for manure and dairy wastewater storage, and criteria for the application of manure and dairy wastewater to cropland as fertilizer. The Dairy General Order also contains reporting requirements for regulated dairies, including the submission of an annual report. Failure to submit the required report is a violation of the Dairy General Order.

“Annual reports are the cornerstone of our Dairy General Order. Annual reports are one of the primary tools we use to ensure that water quality is protected” said Clay Rodgers, Assistant Executive Officer for the Central Valley Water Board. “In assessing this penalty our Board recognized that running a dairy comes with the responsibility of complying with waste discharge requirements, including submitting the required documents.”





The Central Valley Regional Water Quality Board is a California state agency responsible for the preservation and enhancement of water quality. For more information on the Central Valley Water Board, visit the homepage at: <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley>

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