



Enforcement News

North Coast Regional Water Board Reaches \$25,000 Settlement over Sediment Discharges in Mendocino County

**For Immediate Release
July 22, 2015**

**Contact: Stormer Feiler
Phone: (707) 543-7128**

The North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) has reached a \$25,000 settlement with Thomas Rider Plowright III and Patricia Plowright for violating a Cleanup and Abatement Order relating to illegal construction activities that allegedly caused sediment discharges into Little Mill Creek and its tributaries in Mendocino County.

The Cleanup and Abatement Order, issued in January 2011, alleges that Plowright III had reconstructed existing roads, built new ones and used a bulldozer to move earthen material into watercourses, including Little Mill Creek. The creek feeds into the Navarro River and provides habitat for Steelhead trout and feeds streams that harbor Coho salmon. The alleged illegal construction activities violated the California Water Code and federal Clean Water Act.

On Jan. 24, 2014, the Regional Water Board initiated an enforcement action against the Plowrights for failure to comply with the provisions of the Cleanup and Abatement Order. The Plowrights had failed to complete the full scope of the clean-up and replanting required under the order, and they did not monitor or report adequately to maintain compliance. On June 16, the Regional Water Board approved a stipulation for entry of judgment and proposed judgment.

The judgment requires the Plowright's to pay \$25,000 in penalties for water code violations, correct existing and ongoing violations and requires continued monitoring. All existing violations have been remedied, with the monitoring provisions required by the judgment still to be completed. The penalty will be paid to the State Water Resources Control Board's Cleanup and Abatement Account.

The North Coast Regional Board posted the proposed judgment on May 15, and the Mendocino County Superior Court adopted the judgment on June 23.

You can view the [cleanup and abatement order](#) and learn more about the North Coast Water Board's enforcement efforts on its [webpage](#).

###