



# Enforcement News

Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

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## **Central Valley Water Board and Stamas Corporation Settle Stormwater Permit Violations in Nevada County**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**SACRAMENTO** – The Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) and the Stamas Corporation have agreed to a \$90,000 settlement regarding alleged violations of the State Water Board’s construction stormwater permit at the Gold Country Village senior housing development in Nevada County.

The settlement resolves the allegations that the Stamas Corporation failed to install appropriate erosion control best management practices (BMPs), and failed to properly maintain perimeter sediment control BMPs during construction activities. The project involved the construction of an 80-unit senior apartment complex on a five-acre parcel above the South Fork of Wolf Creek in the city of Grass Valley.

“This settlement sends a strong message to developers and contractors that water quality protection at construction sites is a year-round requirement,” said Andrew Altevogt, assistant executive officer for the Regional Water Board. “In this case, the only reason there wasn’t a major discharge of sediment to Wolf Creek is because the rain stopped.”

In spring 2014, inspectors from the Regional Water Board and the City of Grass Valley found the Stamas Corporation had cleared and graded a large portion of the parcel, but did not install erosion control BMPs prior to several rain events despite warnings that such controls were required. Water quality was threatened by runoff from the barren slopes. The City and the Regional Water Board each issued notices to Stamas Corporation for these violations.

In September 2014, City and Water Board inspectors found the site’s perimeter sediment control BMPs were worn and needed repair. The City issued Stamas Corporation a Notice to Comply to correct the deficiencies, and a week later issued a Stop Work Order to compel compliance. The Stop Work Order was lifted a few days later after improvements were made. However, City and Water Board inspections in October 2014 again found additional maintenance deficiencies with the BMPs.

Erosion control BMPs must be installed at all construction sites, such as Gold Country Village, to protect soil particles from detachment and transport by rainfall. These BMPs include measures such as mulch, straw, soil stabilizers, binders, fiber rolls or blankets and temporary

vegetation. The permit also requires perimeter sediment control BMPs such as fiber rolls and silt fences to minimize sediment discharges from construction sites.

As a condition of the agreement, Stamas Corporation will pay \$45,000 to the Rose Foundation for a Supplemental Environmental Project. The Rose Foundation will use the payment to help the Sierra Fund provide outreach to Grass Valley-area tribal and disadvantaged community members and others with information about state-issued fish consumption guidelines for local water bodies. Stamas Corporation will also pay \$45,000 to the State Water Board's Cleanup and Abatement Account.

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

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