



Enforcement News

Water Quality Sampler Arrested for Submitting Falsified Lab Reports to the Division of Drinking Water

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SACRAMENTO – The State Water Resources Control Board’s Division of Drinking Water, in collaboration with the Ventura County District Attorney’s Office, issued felony and misdemeanor charges against Roger Mann of Ventura for allegedly filing fraudulent laboratory reports to the State Water Board. Mann was arrested on Aug. 23 and arraigned Wednesday, Sept. 7, in Ventura County Superior Court.

This is the first criminal enforcement action the Division of Drinking Water (Division) has taken since coming to the State Water Board from the California Department of Public Health in July 2014.

“Environmental laboratory accreditation provides a benchmark for performance, technical capability and confidence in laboratory data reports for California regulatory agencies making critical environmental and public health decisions,” said Christine Sotelo, chief of the Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program. “Community trust in water delivered by the water provider is severely damaged by falsification of water quality information. We support actions taken like this one to maintain the credibility of data and uphold the high degree of integrity and excellence in the environmental laboratory industry.”

A State Water Board investigation revealed that Mann of HS Aqua, LLC, submitted three falsified lab reports to the Division in July 2015. A laboratory’s letterhead was used to create false bacteriological monitoring reports for public water systems located in the Sequoia National Forest. The laboratory, accredited by the Division’s Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program, was not involved with the production of the false reports and fully cooperated with the investigation.

A copy of the complaint, filed in Ventura County Superior Court, can be found on the State Water Board’s Office of Enforcement [website](#).

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