



# Enforcement News

Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board  
<http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles/>

## City of Industry to Pay \$5 Million for Unpermitted Dredging in the San Gabriel River at Follows Camp

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**LOS ANGELES** – The Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) and the City of Industry have reached a settlement agreement for \$5 million related to allegations of unpermitted dredge and fill operations in the San Gabriel River at Follows Camp, a former campsite and RV park purchased by the city five years ago.

The settlement agreement resolves allegations in the initial Administrative Civil Liability Complaint that the city violated sections of the Clean Water Act and Water Code by grading in the Eastern Fork of the San Gabriel River and discharging dredge and fill material without a permit. This work went on for a period of five days from May 7, 2012, to May 11, 2012. The unpermitted grading of 2.38 acres of river bed resulted in the discharge of roughly 880,607 gallons of river cobbles and sediment into the San Gabriel River. The complaint was originally issued to the city on Oct. 27, 2015, for \$5,758,791.

“Unpermitted grading in critical habitats, such as the ones found in the East Fork of the San Gabriel River, can be disastrous to the fish and wildlife in the area and is unacceptable,” said Regional Water Board Chair Irma Muñoz. “Because of the nature of these violations, it was important for the Board to approve an appropriate enforcement action that addressed the serious nature of these allegations so that they will not happen again in the future.”

Department of Fish and Wildlife and Regional Water Board staff allegedly observed evidence of grading on the banks and bed of the East Fork of the San Gabriel River near the Railroad Car Bridge and nearby Arizona crossing in Follows Camp.

This section of the San Gabriel River is located within the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument, as designated by President Barack Obama in October 2014. The San Gabriel River is designated as a critical habitat for the federally-threatened Santa Ana sucker fish. Spawning typically occurs from mid-March to early June in shallow, coarse-bedded areas of streams and rivers, also known as riffles. The City of Industry’s alleged unauthorized activities took place during the typical spawning period for the Santa Ana sucker.

Grading the riverbed flattens the riffles and removes a combination of gravel and rubble boulders used by the fish as part of its spawning habitat. Sediment discharges can cloud the receiving water, clog fish gills, smother aquatic habitat and spawning areas, and impede navigation.

Under the settlement agreement for \$5 million, the city will pay \$2,500,000 to the State Water Pollution Cleanup and Abatement Account. The remaining \$2,500,000 will be suspended if the city completes a stormwater quality improvement Enhanced Compliance Action. The proposed project will collect runoff through a storm drain system and deliver it to a stormwater treatment facility for reuse as reclaimed water.

For more information on the settlement and the proposed stormwater project, see the agreement on the Regional Water Board's enforcement [webpage](#).

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