



# Enforcement News

**Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board**

<http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/>

## **Monterey Regional Water Pollution Control Agency to Pay \$298,958 in Penalties for Sewage Spill**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**April 19, 2016**

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**SAN LUIS OBISPO** -- The Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) has reached a settlement agreement with the Monterey Regional Water Pollution Control Agency over the spillage of 220,000 gallons of raw sewage into Monterey Bay. As part of the agreement, the control agency will pay a penalty of \$298,958.

On May 18, 2015, an unauthorized discharge of untreated domestic wastewater occurred at the control agency's Fountain Avenue Pump Station located at the intersection of 15th Street and Ocean View Boulevard in Pacific Grove. The spill took place during a station repair project and continued for approximately six-and-a-half hours. The discharge caused approximately 220,000 gallons of untreated domestic wastewater to enter Monterey Bay -- part of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary -- and the Pacific Ocean.

"The Water Board and local entities like the Monterey Regional Water Pollution Control Agency work hard to prevent these types of spills. However, when a spill like this occurs, the Water Board must investigate and consider penalties pursuant to the State Water Resources Control Board's Enforcement Policy," said Dr. Jean-Pierre Wolff, chairman of the Regional Water Board. "We take these violations and the threat to human health and the environment seriously, and we will not hesitate to take significant enforcement action when necessary in the future."

The Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board is responsible for protecting and restoring water quality in the 300-mile-long coastal region from southern San Mateo and Santa Clara counties to the northern part of Ventura County. To learn more about the Regional Water Board, see its [website](#).

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