



Enforcement News

Garberville Sanitary District to pay \$40,000 for unauthorized bulk water sales

Purchasers hauled water to sites located outside the district's "place of use"

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Contact: Ailene.Voisin
Ailene.Voisin@waterboards.ca.gov

SACRAMENTO – After violating a 2012 [Cease and Desist Order](#) by repeatedly selling unauthorized bulk water that was transported to construction sites in three northern California communities, the Garberville Sanitary District agreed to pay \$40,000 in a settlement with the State Water Resources Control Board.

The order requires the district to stop selling and delivering water to users outside its permitted area unless needed for emergency domestic supply. In the case of an emergency, the order requires the district to maintain accurate records of the sales, including the date, location, volume of water provided and name of the purchaser.

During an investigation prompted by complaints from local residents, staff found the district violated both provisions of the order between 2017-2019, first by selling bulk water for construction projects 99 times in Humboldt, Lake and Mendocino counties - all locations outside its authorized area - and failing to record the site locations on 106 occasions.

“We take cease and desist violations very seriously, particularly in sensitive watersheds,” said Robert Cervantes, program manager for Water Rights Enforcement. “Selling bulk water to someone who then transports the supply outside the permitted area, and in this case, to construction sites that could have purchased water elsewhere, reduces the supply for local residents and harms habitat.”

The [settlement](#) also requires the sanitary district to decline future requests for non-emergency bulk water that would be delivered beyond its place of use unless the customer has a temporary urgency change petition approved by the State Water Board.

The board's [mission](#) is to preserve, enhance and restore the quality of California's water resources and drinking water for the protection of the environment, public health and all beneficial uses, and to ensure proper water resource allocation and efficient use for current and future generations.

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