



# Enforcement News

## **Monterey Mushroom, Inc. to pay \$1.2 million for unauthorized wastewater discharges to local tributaries of Elkhorn Slough**

**For Immediate Release  
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**Contact:** Edward Ortiz  
[Edward.Ortiz@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Edward.Ortiz@waterboards.ca.gov)

**MONTEREY COUNTY** – Monterey Mushroom, Inc. and its wholly owned subsidiary Spawn Mate, Inc., agreed to a \$1,169,425 settlement with the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board for unauthorized discharges of process wastewater and polluted stormwater from two facilities located in northern Monterey County into unnamed tributaries of Elkhorn Slough.

Between Jan. 8, 2017 and April 19, 2017, the company discharged a combined total of approximately 4,634,245 gallons of process wastewater and/or polluted stormwater from two mushroom growing facilities located in Royal Oaks into the tributary. The wastewater contained ammonia, excessive nutrients, and suspended and floating material, which can harm water quality and aquatic habitat.

“We work hard with dischargers to prevent these types of spills,” said Dr. Jean-Pierre Wolff, chair of the Central Coast Water Board. “We take these violations and threats to the environment very seriously. This settlement demonstrates our collaborative commitment with dischargers to protect and restore our region’s waters.”

Under the settlement agreement, \$599,775 of the settlement funds will pay for a supplemental environmental project, which consists of a pilot project for 1,2,3-trichloropropane (1,2,3-TCP) household-level water treatment for up to 20 disadvantaged community households in unincorporated areas of northern Monterey County, where residents rely on groundwater wells with high levels of 1,2,3-TCP in drinking water. The objective of the household-level water treatment is to effectively treat 1,2,3-TCP to levels below the drinking water standard.

The [Central Coast Water Board](#) is responsible for protecting and restoring water quality in a 300-mile-long coastal region, from southern San Mateo and Santa Clara counties to the northern part of Ventura County. Protecting aquatic habitat in streams and groundwater is essential to ensuring water quality and protecting the health of humans and wildlife.





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For copies of the final signed order, contact Todd Stanley at [Todd.Stanley@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Todd.Stanley@waterboards.ca.gov).