



Enforcement News

Sumiden Wire Co. agrees to settlement in industrial wastewater discharge case

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SACRAMENTO – A wire manufacturing company in San Joaquin County will pay a \$34,328 fine for industrial wastewater discharges that threatened the health of aquatic life and habitat in the Calaveras River.

Stockton-based Sumiden Wire Co. violated the General Permit for Stormwater Discharges Associated with Industrial Activities. The fine is divided into three components -- \$22,628 for a discharge of unauthorized wastewater; \$4,550 for failure to maintain best management practices; and \$7,150 for failure to implement good housekeeping.

This enforcement action is a joint effort between the State Water Resources Control Board's Office of Enforcement and the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board. Both agencies determined that the discharger failed to fulfill requirements of the permit. The violations, which occurred on two days in early April, involved a tank probe failure that caused an estimated 4,820 gallons of acidic wastewater to discharge to the onsite storm water drainage system, which is connected to the city of Stockton's municipal storm sewer.

Stockton's municipal storm sewer discharges to the Calaveras River. Discharges of acidic wastewater can negatively impact aquatic life by increasing the solubility of metals and the toxic elements available for uptake by plants or absorbed by fish. Fish mortality will increase in lower pH conditions. Because of this, the discharged wastewater posed a substantial threat to aquatic organisms.

"The discharger failed to properly maintain and test a tank overflow sensor, which led to the wastewater discharge," said John J. Baum, assistant executive officer for the Central Valley Water Board. "Board staff is satisfied that the discharger has taken corrective actions to prevent future discharge violations."

Owners of industrial facilities must enroll in the stormwater permitting program, which requires enrollees to hire a "stormwater professional" to prepare a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan. Enrollees must also monitor stormwater conditions and collect stormwater samples for



laboratory analysis. [The Central Valley Water Board](#) is a state agency responsible for protecting water quality and ensuring beneficial uses such as aquatic habitat and human health for 11,350 miles of streams, 579,110 acres of lakes, and the largest contiguous groundwater basin in California. It is the largest of nine regional boards, encompassing 60,000 square miles, or about 40 percent of the state. Thirty-eight of 58 counties are either completely or partially within the regional board's boundaries, formed by the crests of the Sierra Nevada on the east, the Coast Ranges and Klamath Mountains on the west, the Oregon border on the north, and the Tehachapi Mountains on the south.

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