
Regional Water Quality Control Board
North Coast Region
Staff Summary Report
April 15, 2026

ITEM: 4

SUBJECT:

Public Hearing on Administrative Civil Liability Complaint No. R1-2026-0009 issued to Pedro Martinez Garcia, Mendocino County, Assessor's Parcel Numbers 032-124-34-00, 032-125-03-00, 032-125-17-00, and 032-124-35-00

BOARD ACTION:

The Board will consider evidence and testimony from the Discharger and Prosecution team and consider whether to issue an administrative civil liability order to Pedro Martinez Garcia (Respondent).

BACKGROUND:

On January 16, 2026, the Advisory Team of the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) was notified that Prosecution Team (Regional Water Board and State Water Board Office of Enforcement) staff had issued an Administrative Civil Liability Complaint (ALCLC or Complaint) to Respondent. The Respondent allegedly failed to implement corrective actions required by Cleanup and Abatement Order R1-2025-0047 in violation of Water Code section 13304.

Pursuant to Water Code section 13323 subdivision (c), the Regional Water Board is required to hold a hearing on the Complaint within 90 days of service of the Complaint. Respondent did not waive his right to a hearing within 90 days. Accordingly, the Board has scheduled a hearing to consider the matter at its upcoming public meeting scheduled for April 15, 2026. At the public hearing, the Regional Water Board will consider whether to issue an order requiring payment of the full amount recommended in the Complaint, issue an order requiring payment of a reduced amount or a higher amount, decline to impose penalties, or refer the matter to the Attorney General's Office. The Regional Water Board may also elect to continue the hearing to a later date or take the matter under submission.

SUMMARY OF KEY INFORMATION:

Site location: Spy Rock area east of Laytonville in Mendocino County
Waterbody: Tributaries to Shell Rock Creek, in the Middle Main Fork Eel River Watershed
Alleged violation(s): Failure to implement corrective actions required by a Cleanup and Abatement Order (CAO)
Proposed Penalty: \$50,000
Important Dates: Inspection – August 12, 2025
Issuance of CAO – October 15, 2025
CAO Deadline for Required Actions – November 14, 2025
Notification to Advisory Team of ACLC – January 16, 2026

DISCUSSION:

According to the Complaint, Regional Water Board staff inspected Mendocino County Assessor’s Parcel Number (APN) 032-124-34-00, 032-125-03-00, 032-125-17-00, and 032-124-35-00 (hereinafter referred to as the Property) on August 12, 2025, during the service of a search warrant obtained by California Department of Fish and Wildlife law enforcement officers. The Property is located in the Spy Rock area east of Laytonville with tributaries to Shell Rock Creek, in the Middle Main Fork Eel River Watershed passing through the Property.

Staff states the purpose of the inspection was to evaluate onsite development and conditions and assess any impacts or threatened impacts to the quality and beneficial uses of water of the state from unauthorized cannabis cultivation.

The Regional Water Board transmitted Cleanup and Abatement Order R1-2025-0047 (CAO) to Respondent on October 15, 2025 via first class mail, and via certified mail on November 17, 2025. The CAO directs Respondent to complete all required actions by November 14, 2025. The Respondent was required to remove all cannabis cultivation waste from riparian setbacks, properly dispose of refuse, solid wastes, and all hazardous wastes to a waste disposal facility authorized to accept that type of waste and submit disposal receipts and photographic confirmation of the work performed to the North Coast Water Board. Staff received no response or documentation from the Respondent.

On November 20, 2025, Regional Water Board staff transmitted a Notice of Violation, and a copy of the CAO to the Respondent for failure to comply with the CAO. The Notice of Violation was delivered using USPS certified mail on December 6, 2025, and USPS priority mail on December 4, 2025. According to the Complaint, Respondent has not replied or provided proof of compliance.

The Complaint proposes an administrative civil liability amount of \$50,000 for failing to implement corrective actions required by the CAO.

The Prosecution Team made a timely submittal of its evidentiary and witness information on March 2, 2026. The Prosecution Team provided a letter dated March 2,

2026 issued to Mr. Garcia, informing him of their evidentiary submissions and instructions for submitting evidence related to the hearing on the Complaint. No submissions were received by Respondent or interested persons.

As stated in the Hearing Procedure, the Prosecution Team must submit and Respondent may submit Proposed Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law for the Board to consider at the hearing by April 2, 2026. Proposed Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law will be provided to Board members when they are received.

RECOMMENDATION:

At this time, the Executive Officer does not have a proposed recommendation. At the conclusion of the hearing and any deliberations, the Executive Officer may provide a recommendation.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

1. Administrative Civil Liability Complaint R1-2026-0009, including Attachment A Methodology, Attachment B Waiver Form, and Attachment C Hearing Procedures
2. Prehearing Evidence (available electronically)
3. Proposed Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law (if submitted)

Copies of documents and evidence not posted on the agenda page are available upon request by emailing Nathan.Jacobsen@waterboards.ca.gov.