



# Enforcement News

## **Rocklin Developer Agrees to \$153,000 Settlement in Environmental Threats to Nearby Ravine**

### ***DLC Rocklin Violates Storm Water Rules at its Granite Bluff Construction Project***

**September 19, 2019**

**Contact:** Andrew Altevogt  
**Phone:** (916) 464-4656

**SACRAMENTO** – The Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board has reached a \$153,460 settlement with a Rocklin developer for allowing sediment and stormwater to run unchecked into a nearby ravine last winter.

The violations of the operator’s stormwater permit occurred at the Granite Bluff construction site between November 2018 and January 2019. The contractor, DLC Rocklin, enrolled in a stormwater construction permit program but failed to install necessary barriers. This allowed water and sediment to flow into nearby ravines, including a tributary of Secret Ravine, an important regional salmon habitat.

“The owner of this project made a decision to continue work through the winter but did not take the required steps to ensure that sediment-laden stormwater did not leave the site.” said Andrew Altevogt, assistant executive officer for the Central Valley Water Board. “This project was in an environmentally sensitive area and our expectation was that permit holders follow the rules. That did not happen in this case.”

DLC Rocklin had enrolled the project in the statewide General Permit for Stormwater Discharges Associated with Construction and Land Disturbing Activities but failed to protect the site during rain events. Regional Water Board staff inspected the project several times from November 2018 and January 2019 and found the project lacked the kind of erosion controls required in the permit., Board staff also observed DLC Rocklin’s contractor pumping turbid stormwater to a tributary of Secret Ravine, potentially causing life-threatening conditions for spawning salmon.

The settlement was reached using a streamlined process that allowed DLC Rocklin to quickly resolve the violations. By early March, DLC Rocklin installed a stormwater treatment system at the site to prevent additional turbid discharges.



The owners of any construction site greater than 1 acre in size must enroll in the [General Permit for Storm Water Discharges Associated with Construction and Land Disturbance Activities](#). Among other items, this permit requires the owner to hire a “stormwater professional” to design and install erosion and sediment controls to prevent discharges of sediment-laden stormwater.

Discharges of sediment can cloud the receiving water, which reduces the amount of sunlight reaching aquatic plants. These discharges can also clog fish gills, smother aquatic habitat and spawning areas, and transport other materials such as nutrients, metals, and oil and grease which can negatively impact aquatic life and habitat.

[The Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board](#) is a California state agency responsible for the preservation and enhancement of water quality. To request a copy of the Settlement Agreement, contact [Andrew Altevogt](#) at (916) 464-4656.

###