

State Water Resources Control Board

July 30, 2026

CERTIFIED MAIL

Ramiro Torres Soto

DELIVERY MAIL NO: 9589 0710 5270 1738 1295 96

NOTICE OF VIOLATION

Investigation ID: 70778

DIVISION OF WATER RIGHTS INVESTIGATION OF MENDOCINO COUNTY ASSESSOR PARCEL NUMBER (APN) 166-100-06

Ramiro Torres Soto,

On July 9, 2026, staff from the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board), Division of Water Rights (Division), in coordination with state and local partner agencies conducted a search warrant inspection (inspection) of your property referenced above (Property). The purpose of the inspection was to observe the diversion and use of water occurring on the Property and to evaluate potential impacts to the watershed. At the time of inspection, Division staff identified that you are using groundwater for cannabis cultivation and are required to comply with the Cannabis Cultivation Policy (Cannabis Policy) terms and conditions as identified below. You must take immediate action to come into compliance or risk civil liability.

Cannabis Policy Violations and Corrective Actions

WC Section 13149: Violations of a Principle, Guideline, or Requirement established in the State Water Board's Cannabis Policy, Attachment A., pursuant to WC section 13149:

WC section 1847, subdivision (a), provides that any person or entity committing a violation of the above referenced requirement may be liable in an amount not to exceed the sum of seven hundred dollars (\$700), plus three hundred dollars (\$300) for each additional day on which the violation continues if the person fails to correct the violation within 30 days after the board has called the violation to the attention of that person, plus three thousand dollars (\$3,000) for each acre-foot of water diverted or used in violation of the applicable requirement.

This letter constitutes your notice of the above-mentioned WC and Policy requirements and violations identified below. Your response to the allegations listed in this notice is required and should be submitted in a timely manner. The State Water Board has discretion when considering an enforcement action and shall consider your corrective actions taken in response to this notice in determining whether and what civil liability is appropriate for violations. Therefore, this matter requires your immediate attention.

1. Cannabis Cultivation Policy, Section 2, Term 92 - Water Storage Facility Without Device to Prevent Water Overflow.

Violation Description:

At the time of the July 9, 2026, inspection, Division staff documented Point of Storage 2 (POS2, Tanks 2 - 3) without a float valve or similar device installed to prevent the overflow and waste of water. The failure to have float valves or similar devices installed at these POS constitutes two (2) violations of Term 92 of Section 2 of the Cannabis Policy.

Corrective Action:

You should immediately take either corrective actions 1 or 2 to comply with the Cannabis Policy's storage overflow requirements for, but not limited to POS2 (Tanks 2 - 3):

- 1) You must install float valves or other equivalent device to shut off a diversion when the storage system is full, OR
- 2) You must cease diverting water to POS2 (Tanks 2 - 3) for cannabis cultivation.

You must also submit photographic proof and/or other documentation that supports your corrective actions taken whether you choose compliance option 1 or 2. You must submit your supporting documentation as prescribed in the Compliance Assistance section of this report.

2. Cannabis Cultivation Policy, Section 2, Term 93 - Failure to Secure Tank Openings to Prevent Entry and Entrapment of Wildlife.

Violation Description:

During the July 9, 2026, inspection, Division staff observed storage tanks in use at the Property located at POS2 (Tanks 2 - 3) without tank lids installed to prevent wildlife entrapment. The failure to ensure coverage of the water storage tanks to prevent wildlife entrapment at two tanks constitutes two (2) violations of Term 93 of Section 2 of the Cannabis Policy.

Corrective Action:

You should immediately take either corrective actions 1 or 2 to comply with the Cannabis Policy's storage tank lid requirements for, but not limited POS2 (Tanks 2 - 3):

- 1) You must install and maintain tank covers on all your water tanks. OR
- 2) You must cease diverting water to POS2 (Tanks 2 - 3) for cannabis cultivation, and maintain your tanks closed to the environment which includes maintaining the top cover of your tanks if they will no longer be in use.

You must also submit photographic proof and/or other documentation that supports your corrective actions taken whether you choose compliance option 1 or 2. You must submit your supporting documentation as prescribed in the Compliance Assistance section of this report.

3. Cannabis Cultivation Policy Section 2, Term 98 – Failure to Maintain Daily Records of Water Use for Cannabis Irrigation.

Violation Description:

Place of Use 1 (POU1) is a documented cannabis cultivation area. At the time of inspection, Division staff did not observe any cannabis irrigation records nor any water measuring devices at POU1. This is your notice that the State Water Board is requesting your daily records of water use for cannabis irrigation. The failure to measure water use for cannabis irrigation and make cannabis irrigation records available constitutes one (1) violation of Term 98 of Section 2 the Cannabis Policy.

Corrective Action:

As of the date of this inspection report, this alleged violation continues to be ongoing. You should within 30 days from the date of this report take either corrective actions 1 or 2 to comply with the Cannabis Policy's cannabis irrigation record requirements for POU1 to quantify all water use on the Property:

- 1) You must send the Division all records required to support that you are in compliance with Term 98, OR
- 2) You must cease your water diversions for cannabis cultivation.

You must also submit photographic proof and/or other documentation that supports your corrective actions taken whether you choose compliance option 1 or 2. You must submit your supporting documentation as prescribed in the Compliance Assistance section of this report.

Right to Further Enforcement

The State Water Board retains the authority and discretion to take an enforcement action based on the facts and allegations contained herein and may initiate enforcement action without further notice. Failure to immediately take all the recommended corrective actions described above or otherwise submit a response indicating any course of action you intend to take and include an implementation plan with a schedule may result in

increased penalties. The State Water Board may consider any corrective actions taken and any statements provided will be verified in the upcoming season.

Compliance Assistance References

The references below provide additional information related to the Cannabis Policy's requirements and the Division of Water Rights programs.

Cannabis Policy Document:

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/cannabis/docs/policy/final_cannabis_policy_with_attach_a.pdf

General Water Right information:

<https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/>

Apply for an Appropriative Water Right Registration:

<https://calwatrs.waterboards.ca.gov/portal/s/registration>

Statement of Water Diversion and Use Program:

<https://calwatrs.waterboards.ca.gov/portal/s/statement-of-use-initiate>

Please submit all supporting documentation and contact Pete Hollingshead by phone at (916) 323-5174, or by email at pete.hollingshead@waterboards.ca.gov. Please reference Investigation ID **70778** and APN **166-100-06** when contacting the Division. Written correspondence or inquiries should be addressed as follows: State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Water Rights, Attn: Pete Hollingshead, P.O. Box 2000, Sacramento, CA 95812-2000.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY:

Pete Hollingshead, Environmental Scientist
Cannabis Enforcement Unit 1
Division of Water Rights

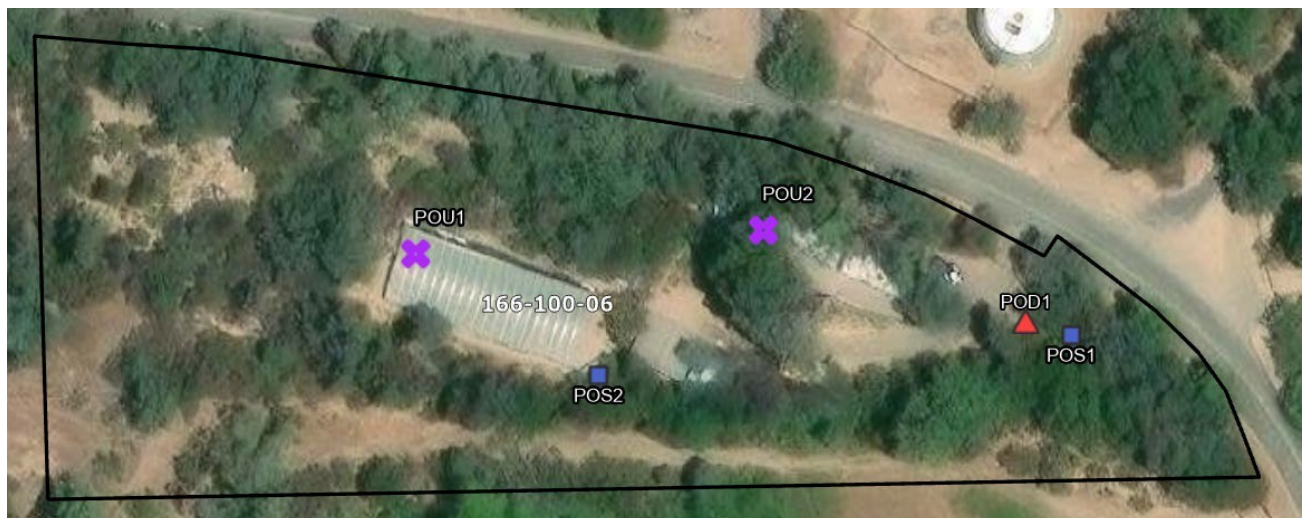
Mendocino County Assessor's Parcel Number (APN) 166-100-06**Figure 1: Topographic Map****National Agriculture Imagery Program, Mendocino County Aerial Imagery**
Mendocino County Assessor's Parcel Number (APN) 166-100-06**Figure 2: Aerial Map**



Photo 1 (POS2): Tanks 2 and 3 without lids or overflow protection.

ec: **Division of Water Rights**

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