



## EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

October 19, 2017

### CalEPA Complaint Database Information: File an Environmental Complaint!

#### *Stormer Feiler, Enforcement Specialist*

The North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (North Coast Region) has adopted the CalEPA Complaint Database as the primary complaint reporting method in the North Coast Region.

The reasons for this are 1) To provide our staff and the public a uniform method of providing the North Coast Region with information regarding environmental crimes and concerns, 2) To ensure a common repository and record of complaints received throughout the office, 3) To facilitate better coordination of complaint response with both State and local agencies, 4) To ensure the public has a fast and easy way to file an environmental complaint at any time of the day or night.

To file a complaint regarding problems you see in your area please go to the either of the following websites and look for the icon shown below the web links.

<http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/> or

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



Another way is to go directly to the complaint database:

<https://calepacomplaints.secure.force.com/complaints/>

The CalEPA Complaint database is accessible on line and once the public files a complaint, it sends out a complaint to the responsible respective Boards, Department and Offices (BDOs) that are part of the CalEPA program. These agencies include the Department of Toxic Substances Control; the State Water Resource Control Board; Air Resources Board; Department of Pesticide Regulation; CalRecycle; and the Office of Environmental Health Hazard and Assessment. Once the complaint is assigned through CalEPA, the database allows staff at the BDOs to quickly assess the complaint and determine if it is a complaint that requires referral to a local agency or other state agency outside the jurisdiction of CalEPA, or if the complaint requires direct response from the BDO assigned.

The Complainants have a choice of providing their contact information or submitting the complaint anonymously. Anyone submitting a complaint should understand that anonymity cannot be maintained if you provide personal information within the text of your complaint. If the complainant provides his/her contact information, then he or she will receive an email regarding his or her complaint and periodic updates when a BDO or referred organization updates the complaint database regarding the complaint.

The categories of complaints are identified with photographs and text as Air, Water, Toxic Substances, Pesticides, or Solid Waste. The CalEPA Complaint Database also asks the complainant if this is an emergency, he or she is directed to call the State Warning Center at 1-800-852-7550 or to call 911.



Tap water and bottled water are both regulated by the federal government. EPA regulates tap water, while FDA regulates bottled water. The list of monitored contaminants and acceptable levels are very similar.

The EPA requires that community water systems (suppliers of most tap water) provide Consumer Confidence Reports, which describe their water quality in detail and are publicly available to all consumers. The FDA does not require this of bottled water manufacturers.

### **Bottled water is FAR more expensive than tap water**

- If you buy bottled water for drinking all year, you'd pay about \$1,400. That same volume of drinking water from your tap is only about \$0.50.
- Bottled water costs between 450 and 10,000 times the cost of tap water, depending on the brand and quantity of purchase.
- A little-known secret: Up to 40 percent of bottled water comes from a public water supply! In some cases, additional purification is not used. Read the label of your water bottle, if it says it is from a community water system, it is tap water in everything but name and packaging.

### **Bottled water use is harmful to the environment**

- The plastic material used to store bottled water (PET or Polyethylene Terephthalate) is non-biodegradable, and even though it is recyclable, as much as 85 percent of these bottles end up in the trash.
- For every pound of PET made, 3 pounds of atmospheric CO2 is generated.
- It takes as much as 3 gallons of water to produce 1-gallon of bottled water.
- The equivalent of more than 17 million barrels of oil is required for water bottle production in the US, annually.

**So what can I do? Use a refillable water bottle!**



Buy your own refillable bottle, fill it with tap water, and carry it with you. Then reuse the bottle. Make sure that any bottles you purchase are stainless steel or sturdy, BPA-free plastic, and that you are following the manufacturer's instructions regarding storage temperature, and mode of cleaning.

If you don't like the flavor of your tap water, or want to add another layer of filtration to it, opt for a pitcher-mounted or centralized filtration system. These can cost as little as \$30. Adding final filtration to your tap water can improve flavor, add additional protection, and is still far cheaper than bottled water.

With the economical and sustainable lifestyle choice of reducing our bottled water consumption, we can collectively have an enormous impact on the amount of pollution entering our landfills and waterways, without compromising our confidence in the safety of what we consume.

#### References:

- <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3084479>
- <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3084479/pdf/ijerph-08-00565.pdf>
- <https://www.theatlantic.com/health/archive/2013/03/how-much-water-do-people-drink/273936/>
- <http://www.moneycrashers.com/bottled-water-vs-tap-water-facts/>
- <http://www.bottledwater.org/bottled-water-sales-and-consumption-projected-increase-2014-expected-be-number-one-packaged-drink>
- <http://www.awrusa.com/files/TapVsBottle012609.pdf>
- <http://pacinst.org/publication/bottled-water-and-energy-a-fact-sheet/>
- [https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2015-11/documents/2005\\_09\\_14\\_faq\\_fs\\_healthseries\\_bottledwater.pdf](https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2015-11/documents/2005_09_14_faq_fs_healthseries_bottledwater.pdf)



## Enforcement Report for October 2017 Executive Officer's Report

*Diana Henriouille, Senior Water Resource Control Engineer*

Date Issued	Discharger	Action Type	Violation Type	Status as of September 14, 2017
8/8/2017	Kellen Sibley and Kathy MacDonald	CAO	Unauthorized discharge to waters of the state	Ongoing

**Comments:** On August 8, 2017, the Executive Officer (EO) issued Cleanup and Abatement Order (CAO) No. R1-2017-0041 to Kellen Sibley and Kathy MacDonald for unauthorized excavation and fill of a watercourse; construction of an on-stream dam and impoundment; development and use of roads and stream crossings for cannabis cultivation and associated activities; and placement of cultivation-related potting soil, and spoils generated through the development of cleared and graded areas in a manner and location where they can enter receiving waters. The CAO directs the Dischargers to submit and implement an Interim and a Final Restoration Mitigation and Monitoring Plan. This matter is ongoing.

Date Issued	Discharger	Action Type	Violation Type	Status as of September 14, 2017
8/18/2017	Chris McCook	NOV and 13267	Unauthorized discharge to waters of the state	Ongoing

**Comments:** On August 8, 2017 the Assistant Executive Officer issued a Notice of Violation (NOV) and Water Code section 13267 requirement for information letter to Chris McCook for performing unpermitted instream bank stabilization work. The NOV directs Mr. McCook to submit a chronology of the activities performed on the site and a workplan for restoration and mitigation that addresses all unpermitted impacts to waters of the United States. The information and workplan are due by October 3, 2017, 45 days from issuance of the letter.

Date Issued	Discharger	Action Type	Violation Type	Status as of September 14, 2017
8/23/2017	Don Roberts and Steven G. and Taylor Whitley	Rescission of CAO	Unauthorized hydromodification activities	Closed

**Comments:** On January 15, 2013, the EO issued CAO No. R1-2013-0007 to Don Roberts and Steven G. and Taylor Whitley for violations associated with the unauthorized modification of a wetland and pond complex on property located in Mendocino County. On August 23, 2017, the EO issued Rescission Order No. R1-2017-0043 to Don Roberts and Steven G. and Taylor Whitley rescinding the CAO. As detailed in the rescission order, Regional Water Board staff have inspected the site and

confirmed that the violations leading to issuance of the CAO have been corrected, and a subsequent monitoring report submitted on behalf of the Dischargers demonstrated that the site is recovering adequately. Accordingly, based on available information, it is appropriate to rescind the CAO.

Date Issued	Discharger	Action Type	Violation Type	Status as of September 14, 2017
8/24/2017	Liz Seise and Scott Seise	Rescission of CAO	Discharges of organic and earthen materials to receiving waters associated with development of a site for cannabis cultivation.	Closed

**Comments:** On May 17, 2013, the EO issued CAO No. R1-2013-0039 (CAO) to Liz Seise and Scott Seise for discharges of earthen material and woody debris to unnamed tributaries to Mill Creek in the Mattole River watershed. On August 24, 2017, the EO issued Order No. R1-2017-0044 rescinding the CAO. As detailed in the rescission order Regional Water Board staff have inspected the site and confirmed that the violations leading to issuance of the CAO have been corrected, and a subsequent monitoring report submitted on behalf of the Dischargers demonstrated that the site is recovering adequately. Accordingly, based on available information, it is appropriate to rescind the CAO.

Date Issued	Discharger	Action Type	Violation Type	Status as of September 14, 2017
8/25/2017	City of Rio Dell	Rescission of Cease and Desist Order	Potential chronic violations of seasonal discharge prohibitions.	Closed

**Comments:** On May 15, 2003, and June 21, 2005, the EO issued CDO R1-2003-0046 and R1-2005-0034, respectively, to the City of Rio Dell for potential chronic violations of the Basin Plan seasonal discharge prohibition which prohibits effluent discharges to the Eel River and its tributaries from May 15 through September 30 of each year. Documentation submitted by the Permittee confirms that actions necessary to provide for effluent disposal during the seasonal discharge prohibition period had been completed. Based on the available information, the CDO No. R1-2003-0046 and R1-2005-0034 have been rescinded.

