



Matthew Rodriguez
Secretary for
Environmental Protection

California Regional Water Quality Control Board Central Valley Region

Karl E. Longley, ScD, P.E., Chair

11020 Sun Center Drive, #200, Rancho Cordova, California 95670-6114
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<http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley>



Edmund G. Brown Jr.
Governor

14 May 2012

Del Mar Farms
Jon Maring and Lee Del Don
9843 Cox Road
Patterson, CA 95363

Bernard N. & Barbara C. O'Neill Trust
2121 Garden Circle Drive West
Manteca, CA 95336-0000

CERTIFIED MAIL
7009 1410 0002 1421 6785

CERTIFIED MAIL
7009 1410 0002 1421 6778

ADMINISTRATIVE CIVIL LIABILITY COMPLAINT R5-2012-0515, DEL MAR FARMS, JON MARING, LEE DEL DON AND BERNARD N. & BARBARA C. O'NEILL TRUST, STANISLAUS COUNTY

Enclosed is an Administrative Civil Liability Complaint (Complaint), issued pursuant to California Water Code sections 13323 and 13350. The Complaint alleges that Del Mar Farms, Jon Maring, Lee Del Don and the Bernard N. & Barbara C. O'Neill Trust (hereafter referred to as "Dischargers") violated the Coalition Group Conditional Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements from Irrigated Lands (the "Conditional Waiver") by discharging sediment-laden waters to the Amaral Line (tributary to the San Joaquin River) and recommends an administrative civil liability in the amount of **one hundred twenty three thousand and one hundred ninety one dollars (\$123,191)**.

The Dischargers may:

- Pay the proposed administrative civil liability and waive their right to a hearing (Option 1 on the attached waiver form);
- Ask that the hearing be postponed to facilitate settlement discussions or for other reasons (Options 2 or 3 on the attached waiver form); or
- Contest the Complaint and/or enter into settlement discussions without signing the enclosed waiver.

If the Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region (hereafter Central Valley Water Board or board) does not receive a signed waiver by **27 June 2012**, a hearing will be scheduled for the Board meeting tentatively scheduled for **2/3 August 2012**, in Rancho Cordova. This hearing will be governed by the attached Hearing Procedures, which have been approved by the board chair for use in adjudicating matters such as this one. Any objections

California Environmental Protection Agency



to the Hearing Procedures must be received by Alex Mayer, whose contact information is listed in the Hearing Procedures, by **5 p.m. on 11 June 2012**.

If the Dischargers choose to sign the waiver and pay the assessed civil liability, this will be considered a tentative settlement of the violations. The settlement will be considered final pending a 30-day public comment period, starting from the date this Complaint is issued. Interested parties may comment on the proposed action during this period by submitting written comments to the board staff person listed below. Should the board receive new information or comments during this comment period, the Executive Officer may withdraw the Complaint, return payment, and issue a new complaint. If the Central Valley Water Board does not hold a hearing on the matter, and if the terms of the final settlement are not significantly different from those proposed in the enclosed Complaint, then there will not be additional opportunities for public comment on the proposed settlement.

In order to conserve resources, this letter transmits paper copies of the documents to the Dischargers only. Interested persons may download the documents from the Central Valley Water Board's Internet website at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_decisions/tentative_orders/.

Copies of these documents can also be obtained by contacting or visiting the Central Valley Water Board's office weekdays between 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM.

If you have any questions or comments regarding the Administrative Civil Liability Complaint, please contact Terry Bechtel at (916) 464-4720 or via e-mail at tbechtel@waterboards.ca.gov.

Original Signed by

Rick Moss, Assistant Executive Officer

14 May 2012

(Date)

Enclosures: Hearing Procedures
ACL Complaint R5-2012-0515
Waiver Form

cc w/o encl.: Kenneth Landau, Central Valley Water Board, Rancho Cordova
Andrew Tauriainen, Office of Enforcement, SWRCB, Sacramento
Alex Mayer, Office of Chief Counsel, SWRCB, Sacramento
Phillip Mackay, California Department of Fish & Game, Fresno
Gary Caseri, Stanislaus County Agricultural Commissioner
Joe McGahan, Westside San Joaquin River Watershed Coalition

CENTRAL VALLEY REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
HEARING PROCEDURE
FOR ADMINISTRATIVE CIVIL LIABILITY COMPLAINT
R5-2012-0515

ISSUED TO
DEL MAR FARMS, JON MARING, LEE DEL DON AND BERNARD N. & BARBARA C.
O'NEILL TRUST
STANISLAUS COUNTY

SCHEDULED FOR 2/3 AUGUST 2012

PLEASE READ THIS HEARING PROCEDURE CAREFULLY. FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THE DEADLINES AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS CONTAINED HEREIN MAY RESULT IN THE EXCLUSION OF YOUR DOCUMENTS AND/OR TESTIMONY.

Background

The Executive Officer has issued an Administrative Civil Liability (ACL) Complaint pursuant to California Water Code sections 13323 and 13350 to Del Mar Farms, Jon Maring, Lee Del Don and Bernard N. & Barbara C. O'Neill Trust (hereafter referred to as "Dischargers"). The Complaint alleges violations of Water Code section 13350 for the discharge of waste in violation of the Coalition Group Conditional Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements from Irrigated Lands (the "Conditional Waiver"). The discharge allegedly violated applicable water quality standards outlined in the *Water Quality Control Plan for the Sacramento River and San Joaquin River Basins, Fourth Edition*, (the "Basin Plan") by raising the natural turbidity of the receiving waters by 200 percent; and by causing or contributing to nuisance conditions on three separate days. Conditions in the Conditional Waiver provide references that waste discharges shall not exceed Basin Plan requirements.

The Complaint proposes that an administrative civil liability in the amount of \$123,191 be imposed. A hearing is tentatively scheduled to be conducted before the Central Valley Water Board during its meeting on 2/3 August 2012.

Purpose of Hearing

The purpose of the hearing is to consider relevant evidence and testimony regarding the ACL Complaint. At the hearing, the Central Valley Water Board will consider whether to issue an administrative civil liability order assessing the proposed liability, or a higher or lower amount, or reject the proposed liability. The public hearing will commence at 8:30 a.m. or as soon thereafter as practical, or as announced in the Central Valley Water Board meeting agenda. The meeting will be held at

11020 Sun Center Drive, Suite 200, Rancho Cordova, California.

An agenda for the meeting will be issued at least ten days before the meeting and posted on the Central Valley Water Board's web page at:
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_info/meetings.

Hearing Procedures

The hearing will be conducted in accordance with this Hearing Procedure. This Hearing Procedure has been approved by the Central Valley Water Board Chair in model format, and is subject to further revision by the Central Valley Water Board's Advisory Team or the Chair. A copy of the general procedures governing adjudicatory hearings before the Central Valley Water Board may be found at California Code of Regulations, title 23, section 648 et seq., and is available at <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov> or upon request. In accordance with Section 648, subdivision (d), any procedure not provided by this Hearing Procedure is deemed waived. Except as provided in Section 648, subdivision (b) and herein, Chapter 5 of the Administrative Procedures Act (commencing with Gov't Code § 11500) does not apply to this hearing.

ANY OBJECTIONS TO THE HEARING PROCEDURE MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE CENTRAL VALLEY WATER BOARD'S ADVISORY TEAM NO LATER THAN 11 JUNE 2012, OR THEY WILL BE WAIVED. FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THE DEADLINES AND REQUIREMENTS CONTAINED HEREIN MAY RESULT IN THE EXCLUSION OF DOCUMENTS AND/OR TESTIMONY.

The Dischargers shall contact the Prosecution Team to try to resolve objections regarding due dates, the hearing date, and hearing time limits BEFORE submitting objections to the Advisory Team.

Hearing Participants

Participants in this proceeding are designated as either "parties" or "interested persons." Designated parties to the hearing may present evidence and cross-examine witnesses and are subject to cross-examination. Interested persons may present non-evidentiary policy statements, but may not cross-examine witnesses and are not subject to cross-examination. Interested persons generally may not present evidence (e.g., photographs, eye-witness testimony, monitoring data). Both designated parties and interested persons may be asked to respond to clarifying questions from the Central Valley Water Board, staff or others, at the discretion of the Central Valley Water Board.

The following participants are hereby designated as parties in this proceeding:

1. Central Valley Water Board Prosecution Team
2. Del Mar Farms, Jon Maring, Lee Del Don
3. Bernard N. & Barbara C. O'Neill Trust

Requesting Designated Party Status

Persons who wish to participate in the hearing as a designated party must request party status by submitting a request in writing (with copies to the existing designated parties) so that it is received no later than 5 p.m. on **13 June 2012**, by the Advisory Team attorney

(contact information listed below). The request shall include an explanation of the basis for status as a designated party (i.e., how the issues to be addressed in the hearing and the potential actions by the Central Valley Water Board affect the person, and the need to present evidence or cross-examine witnesses), the information required of designated parties as provided below, and a statement explaining why the party or parties designated above do not adequately represent the person's interest. Any opposition to the request must be received by the Advisory Team, the person requesting party status, and all other parties by 5 p.m. on **27 June 2012**. The parties will be notified by 5 p.m. on **13 July 2012** whether the request has been granted or denied.

Primary Contacts

Advisory Team:

Kenneth Landau, Assistant Executive Officer
11020 Sun Center Drive, Suite 200, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670
Phone: (916) 464-4726
klandau@waterboards.ca.gov

Alex Mayer, Staff Counsel
State Water Resources Control Board, Office of Chief Counsel
Physical Address: 1001 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95814
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 100, Sacramento, CA 95812
Phone: (916) 341-5051; fax: (916) 341-5199
amayer@waterboards.ca.gov

Prosecution Team:

Pamela Creedon, Executive Officer
Frederick Moss, Assistant Executive Officer
Joe Karkoski, Supervisory Water Resource Control Engineer
Brett Stevens, Senior Environmental Scientist
Terry Bechtel, Environmental Scientist
11020 Sun Center Drive, Suite 200, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670
Phone: (916) 464-4642; fax: (916) 464-4780
bstevens@waterboards.ca.gov

Andrew Tauriainen, Senior Staff Counsel
State Water Resources Control Board, Office of Enforcement
Physical Address: 1001 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95814
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 100, Sacramento, CA 95812
Phone: (916) 341-5445; fax: (916) 341-5896
atauriainen@waterboards.ca.gov

Dischargers:

Del Mar Farms
Jon Maring
Lee Del Don
9843 Cox Road
Patterson, CA 95363

Bernard N. & Barbara C. O'Neill Trust
2121 Garden Circle Drive West
Manteca, CA 95336-0000

Separation of Functions

To help ensure the fairness and impartiality of this proceeding, the functions of those who will act in a prosecutorial role by presenting evidence for consideration by the Central Valley Water Board (Prosecution Team) have been separated from those who will provide advice to the Central Valley Water Board (Advisory Team). Members of the Advisory Team are: Kenneth Landau and Alex Mayer. Members of the Prosecution Team are: Pamela Creedon, Frederick Moss, Joe Karkoski, Brett Stevens, Terry Bechtel, and Andrew Tauriainen. Any members of the Advisory Team who normally supervise any members of the Prosecution Team are not acting as their supervisors in this proceeding, and vice versa. Pamela Creedon regularly advises the Central Valley Water Board in other, unrelated matters, but is not advising the Central Valley Water Board in this proceeding. Other members of the Prosecution Team act or have acted as advisors to the Central Valley Water Board in other, unrelated matters, but they are not advising the Central Valley Water Board in this proceeding. Members of the Prosecution Team have not had any ex parte communications with the members of the Central Valley Water Board or the Advisory Team regarding this proceeding.

Ex Parte Communications

The designated parties and interested persons are forbidden from engaging in ex parte communications regarding this matter with members of the Advisory Team or members of the Central Valley Water Board. An ex parte contact is any written or verbal communication pertaining to the investigation, preparation or prosecution of the ACL Complaint between a member of a designated party or interested person on the one hand, and a Central Valley Water Board member or an Advisory Team member on the other hand, unless the communication is copied to all other designated parties (if written) or made in a manner open to all other designated parties (if verbal). Communications regarding non-controversial procedural matters are not ex parte contacts and are not restricted. Communications among one or more designated parties and interested persons themselves are not ex parte contacts.

The following communications to the Advisory Team must be copied to all designated parties: Objections to these Hearing Procedures; requests for modifications to these Hearing Procedures; requests for designated party status, or objections thereto; and all written evidence, legal argument or policy statements from designated parties. This is not an all-inclusive list of ex parte communications.

Hearing Time Limits

To ensure that all participants have an opportunity to participate in the hearing, the following time limits shall apply: each designated party shall have a combined **30 minutes** to present evidence (including evidence presented by witnesses called by the designated party), cross-examine witnesses (if warranted), and provide a closing statement; and each interested person shall have 3 minutes to present a non-evidentiary policy statement. Participants with similar interests or comments are requested to make joint presentations, and participants are requested to avoid redundant comments. Participants who would like

additional time must submit their request to the Advisory Team so that it is received by 5:00 p.m. on **9 July 2012**. Additional time may be provided at the discretion of the Advisory Team (prior to the hearing) or the Central Valley Water Board Chair (at the hearing) upon a showing that additional time is necessary. Such showing shall explain what testimony, comments or legal argument require extra time, and why the Dischargers could not adequately provide the testimony, comments or legal argument in writing before the hearing.

A timer will be used, but will not run during Board questions or the responses to such questions, or during discussions of procedural issues.

Submission of Evidence and Policy Statements

Case in Chief: The Prosecution Team, the Dischargers and each other designated party must submit the following information in writing in advance of the hearing:

1. All evidence (other than witness testimony to be presented orally at the hearing) that the Designated Party would like the Central Valley Water Board to consider. Evidence and exhibits already in the public files of the Central Valley Board may be submitted by reference as long as the exhibits and their location are clearly identified in accordance with California Code of Regulations, title 23, section 648.3. Board members will generally not receive copies of materials incorporated by reference, and the referenced materials are generally not posted on the Board's website.
2. All legal and technical arguments or analysis.
3. The name of each witness, if any, whom the designated party intends to call at the hearing, the subject of each witness' proposed testimony, and the estimated time required by each witness to present direct testimony. (This information is not required for rebuttal witnesses or rebuttal testimony.)
4. The qualifications of each expert witness, if any. (This information is not required for rebuttal witnesses.)

The Prosecution Team's information must include the legal and factual basis for its claims against each Discharger; a list or attached copy of all evidence on which the Prosecution Team relies, which must include, at a minimum, all documents cited in the complaint or Staff Report; and the witness information required under items 3 and 4 for all witnesses, including staff. The Prosecution Team shall provide an electronic copy to Kenneth Landau and Alex Mayer of all documents cited in the complaint or Staff Report no later than the due date under Important Deadlines, below.

The Prosecution Team shall submit one hard copy and one electronic copy to Kenneth Landau and one electronic copy to Alex Mayer. Each other designated party shall submit 3 hard copies and one electronic copy to Kenneth Landau and one electronic copy to Alex Mayer. Kenneth Landau and Alex Mayer must receive all submissions no later than 5:00 p.m. on the applicable due date under Important Deadlines, below.

Rebuttal: Any designated party that would like to submit evidence, legal analysis or policy statements to rebut the information previously submitted by other designated parties shall

submit 3 hard copies of their rebuttal information to Kenneth Landau and one electronic copy of the information to Alex Mayer so that they are received by 5 p.m. on the due date under Important Deadlines, below. "Rebuttal" means evidence, analysis or comments offered to disprove or contradict other designated parties' submissions. Rebuttal shall be limited to the scope of the materials previously submitted by the other designated parties. Rebuttal information that is not responsive to information previously submitted by other designated parties may be excluded.

Copies: Board members will receive copies of all materials submitted in hard copy or electronic format. The Board's copies will be printed in black and white from the designated parties' electronic copies. Designated parties who are concerned about print quality of all or any part of their written materials should submit a high-resolution pdf or provide an extra nine paper copies for the Board members. For items with voluminous submissions, Board members may receive copies electronically only. Electronic copies are also posted on the Board's website.

Parties without access to computer equipment are strongly encouraged to have their materials scanned at a copy and mailing center. However, the Board will not reject materials solely for failure to provide electronic copies.

By **13 July 2012**, the Prosecution Team shall prepare a summary agenda sheet ("buff sheet") for this item to be included in the Board members' agenda package and posted on the internet. The buff sheet shall clearly state that it was prepared by the Prosecution Team. The Prosecution Team shall provide a copy of the buff sheet to all parties by mail or email.

Interested persons who would like to submit written non-evidentiary policy statements are encouraged to submit them to the Advisory Team as early as possible, but they must be received by **9 July 2012**. Interested persons do not need to submit written comments in order to speak at the hearing.

In accordance with California Code of Regulations, title 23, section 648.4, the Central Valley Water Board endeavors to avoid surprise testimony or evidence. Absent a showing of good cause and lack of prejudice to the parties, the Central Valley Water Board may exclude evidence and testimony that is not submitted in accordance with this Hearing Procedure. Excluded evidence and testimony will not be considered by the Central Valley Water Board and will not be included in the administrative record for this proceeding. Power Point and other visual presentations may be used at the hearing, but their content may not exceed the scope of other submitted written material. Designated parties must provide the Advisory Team with a printed copy of such materials at or before the hearing, for inclusion in the administrative record. Additionally, any witness who has submitted written testimony for the hearing shall appear at the hearing and affirm that the written testimony is true and correct, and shall be available for cross-examination.

Evidentiary Documents and File

The Complaint and related evidentiary documents are on file and may be inspected or copied at the Central Valley Water Board office at 11070 Sun Center Drive, Rancho

Cordova, CA. This file shall be considered part of the official administrative record for this hearing. Other submittals received for this proceeding will be added to this file and will become a part of the administrative record absent a contrary ruling by the Central Valley Water Board's Chair. Many of these documents are also posted on-line at http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_decisions/tentative_orders/index.shtml Although the web page is updated regularly, to assure access to the latest information, you may contact Brett Stevens (contact information above).

Questions

Questions concerning this proceeding may be addressed to the Advisory Team attorney (contact information above).

IMPORTANT DEADLINES

All required submissions must be received by 5:00 p.m. on the due date.

14 May 2012	Prosecution Team issues ACL Complaint to Dischargers and Advisory Team, sends proposed Hearing Procedure to Dischargers and Advisory Team, and publishes Public Notice
11 June 2012	Objections due on proposed Hearing Procedure
13 June 2012	Deadline for submission of request for designated party status
27 June 2012	Deadline for opposition to request for designated party status
27 June 2012	Dischargers' deadline for submitting signed form to waive right to hearing within 90 days
3 July 2012	Prosecution Team's deadline for submission of all information required under "Evidence and Policy Statements," above
3 July 2012	Remaining Designated Parties' (including the Dischargers') deadline for submission of all information required under "Evidence and Policy Statements," above
9 July 2012	Requests for additional hearing time are due (see Hearing Time Limits, above).
9 July 2012	Interested persons' comments are due.
10 July 2012	Prosecution Team submits an electronic copy to Kenneth Landau and Alex Mayer of all documents cited in the complaint or Staff Report, unless previously submitted.
12 July 2012	All Designated Parties shall submit any rebuttal evidence, written rebuttal to legal argument and/or written rebuttal to policy statements; and all evidentiary objections to other Designated Parties' submittals.
13 July 2012	Advisory Team issues decision on requests for designated party status, if any.
13 July 2012	Prosecution Team's deadline to submit Buff Sheet
2/3 August 2012	Hearing