

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

**ITEM:** 3

**SUBJECT:**

Public Hearing on Administrative Civil Liability Complaint No. R1-2026-0011 issued to Jorge Sanchez Herrera, Mendocino County, Assessor's Parcel Number 033-172-56-00

**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 Jorge Sanchez Herrera (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 (ACLC or Complaint) to Respondent. The Respondent allegedly failed to implement corrective actions required by Cleanup and Abatement Order R1-2025-0043 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 north of Dos Rios in Mendocino County  
Waterbody: Unnamed tributaries to the Eel River in the Middle Main Fork Eel River Watershed

ALEXANDRA HART, CHAIR | VALERIE QUINTO, EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Alleged violation(s): Failure to implement corrective actions required by a Cleanup and Abatement Order (CAO)

Proposed Penalty: \$50,000

Important Dates: Inspections – October 30, 2024, and September 3, 2025

Issuance of CAO – September 23, 2025

CAO Deadline for Required Actions – November 15, 2025

Issuance/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) 033-172-56-00 (the Property) on October 30, 2024, and September 3, 2025, and documented site conditions constituting threats to water quality. The Property is located in the Spy Rock area north of Dos Rios in Mendocino County. Unnamed tributaries to the Eel River in the Middle Main Fork Eel River Watershed pass through the Property.

The Regional Water Board issued Cleanup and Abatement Order R1-2025-0043 (CAO) to Respondent on September 23, 2025. The CAO directs Respondent to implement erosion and/or sediment control Best Management Practices (BMPs) to disturbed areas; properly dispose of refuse, solid wastes, and all hazardous wastes to a waste disposal facility authorized to accept that type of waste; hydrologically disconnect and restore ditches emanating from cultivation pad; 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 18, 2025, Regional Water Board staff issued a Notice of Violation to the Respondent for failure to comply with the CAO. On December 31, 2025, Regional Water Board staff issued Spanish translations of prior documents, including the final CAO. According to the Complaint, Respondent has not provided any proof of compliance with the CAO.

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. 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 R1-2026-0011, 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 [Bayley.Toft-Dupuy@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Bayley.Toft-Dupuy@waterboards.ca.gov).