



# Enforcement News

*San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board*

## **San Diego Water Board Approves \$138,000 Penalty for Polluted Discharges to San Diego Bay**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SAN DIEGO --- The San Diego Region Regional Water Quality Control Board (San Diego Water Board) today approved \$138,000 in penalties against Ariel Suites, L.P. for discharging polluted water into San Diego Bay from February through July 2012. The area of San Diego Bay that received the polluted water supports vibrant recreation, wildlife, and commercial uses. In addition to paying the penalty, Ariel Suites, L.P. upgraded its treatment system to be in compliance with its discharge permit, which will protect San Diego Bay.

The \$138,000 penalty resolves 47 violations of a permit to discharge treated groundwater. Ariel Suites, L.P. is constructing a high-rise apartment building, and the foundation excavation requires groundwater removal. Ariel Suites, L.P. received a San Diego Water Board permit to discharge clean groundwater into San Diego Bay via the City of San Diego's storm water conveyance system. However, an inadequate treatment system resulted in levels of copper, nickel, total suspended solids, and tetrachloroethylene that exceeded permitted levels. When discharged above effluent limits these compounds are toxic to marine life, interfering with their propagation, and survival.

"These penalties are what ultimately compelled an adequate treatment system to be installed," said James Smith, Assistant Executive Officer. "Sometimes it takes more than a permit to protect San Diego Bay's water quality."

The violations triggered mandatory penalties pursuant to the California Water Code. The money will be deposited in the State Water Pollution Cleanup and Abatement Account to be used to remediate pollution in the State's waters.

For more information on this enforcement action, visit:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/board\\_info/agendas/2012/Dec/item8/item\\_8\\_esr.pdf](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/board_info/agendas/2012/Dec/item8/item_8_esr.pdf)

The San Diego Water Board protects and restores water quality in the southwest portion of the State, including parts of San Diego, Riverside, and Orange Counties. Visit their website at:

<http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/>



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