



State Water Resources Control Board

NOV 20 2024

CERTIFIED MAIL

Armando Melecio

CERTIFIED MAIL NO: 9589 0710 5270 1501 9778 29

NOTICE OF VIOLATION

Investigation ID: 16327

DIVISION OF WATER RIGHTS INVESTIGATION OF MENDOCINO COUNTY ASSESSOR
PARCEL NUMBER (APN) 014-400-58-00

Armando Melecio,

On September 25, 2024, staff from the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board), Division of Water Rights (Division), in coordination with California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), conducted a search warrant investigation of the property referenced above (Property). The purpose of the investigation was to observe the diversion and use of water occurring on the Property and to evaluate potential impacts to the watershed.

You are being contacted because you were identified as the property owner of the Mendocino County APN identified above where you are allegedly diverting and using water for cannabis cultivation.

During the investigation, Division staff observed California Water Code (WC) and State Water Board, Cannabis Cultivation Policy (Policy) violations. Enclosed is the Division’s Inspection Report (Report) of your Property that includes Division staff observations, alleged violations, and the corrective actions necessary for compliance with the WC and the State Water Board’s Policy. The enclosed Report constitutes your notice of the alleged violations and this matter requires your immediate attention. The information below is a summary of the alleged violations included in the Report.

Violations and Corrective Actions 9

Compliance Assistance References 23

E. JOAQUIN ESQUIVEL, CHAIR | ERIC OPPENHEIMER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The State Water Board retains the authority and discretion to take enforcement action based on the facts and allegations contained herein and you may be subject to further enforcement action before the State Water Board. Therefore, this matter requires your immediate attention. You should follow all staff recommended corrective actions described in the enclosed Report or submit a response indicating any course of action you intend to take or have taken, including an implementation schedule, and/or photo documentation that demonstrates your compliance. You can provide your response, documentation and photos through the Division of Water Rights Cannabis Response Notice Portal detailed in the Report in the **Compliance Assistance References section**.

If you have questions concerning the Report, please contact me by phone at (916) 323-5174, or by email at pete.hollingshead@waterboards.ca.gov. Written correspondence can be provided and addressed to the following address: State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Water Rights, P.O. Box 100, Sacramento, CA 95812-0100, Attention: Peter Hollingshead.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY:

Peter Hollingshead
Environmental Scientist
Cannabis Enforcement Unit
Division of Water Rights

Enclosures:

- 1) Division of Water Rights Inspection Report dated September 25, 2024
- 2) Enclosure A: SHN Engineers and Geologists Report
- 3) Enclosure B: Vogel Engineering Report
- 4) Enclosure C: Order Canceling Water Right Application A031932

ec: Division of Water Rights - Cannabis Enforcement
Taro Murano
Taro.Murano@waterboards.ca.gov
Stormer Feiler
Stormer.Feiler@waterboards.ca.gov

Laura Cunningham
Laura.Cunningham@waterboards.ca.gov

Cannabis Registration Unit
DWR-cannabisreg@waterboards.ca.gov

Department of Fish and Wildlife

Justin Rhoades

Justin.Rhoades@wildlife.ca.gov

Scott Bauer

Scott.Bauer@wildlife.ca.gov

Corinne Gray

Corinne.Gray@wildlife.ca.gov

North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

Northcoast.Cannabis@waterboards.ca.gov

Mendocino County Sheriff's Office

Clint Wyant

wyantc@mendocinocounty.org

Mendocino County Cannabis Program

cannabisprogram@mendocinocounty.org

Mendocino County Code Enforcement

Gretchen McLaughlin

mcclaughling@mendocinocounty.org

Mendocino Agricultural Commissioner Harinder

Grewal grewalh@mendocinocounty.org

Department of Cannabis Control

Jose Barajas

Jose.Barajas@cannabis.ca.gov

Jon Silva

Jon.Silva@cannabis.ca.gov

Lindsay Rains

Lindsay.Rains@cannabis.ca.gov

Erin Wonder

Erin.Wonder@cannabis.ca.gov