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## State Water Resources Control Board

May 27, 2026

CERTIFIED MAIL

Aaron North & Mary Ellen North P

VIA CERTIFIED MAIL NO: 9589 0710 5270 2654 1047 35

Richard Ochoa

VIA CERTIFIED MAIL NO: 9589 0710 5270 3507 7068 16

Peter Elke

VIA CERTIFIED MAIL NO: 9589 0710 5270 3507 7068 23

### NOTICE OF VIOLATION

Investigation ID: 0000070670

#### **DIVISION OF WATER RIGHTS INVESTIGATION OF MENDOCINO COUNTY ASSESSOR PARCEL NUMBER (APN) 056-440-07**

Aaron and Mary Ellen North,

On April 30, 2026, 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 owners 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 second notice of

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

the alleged violations, and this matter requires your immediate attention. The first notice of violation was left with a copy of the search warrant on April 30, 2026 and detailed WC and Policy violations and corresponding corrective actions (Photos 40-41). The information below is a summary of the alleged violations included in the Report.

**Violations and Corrective Actions.....10**  
**Compliance Assistance References ..... 24**

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 submit supporting documentation directly to Division staff as described at the end of this 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](mailto: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 2000, Sacramento, CA 95812-2000, Attention: Pete Hollingshead.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY:

Pete Hollingshead  
Environmental Scientist  
Cannabis Enforcement Unit  
Division of Water Rights

**Enclosures:**

Division of Water Rights Inspection Report dated April 30, 2026

**ec: Division of Water Rights - Cannabis Enforcement**

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**North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board**  
[Northcoast.Cannabis@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Northcoast.Cannabis@waterboards.ca.gov)

**Mendocino County Sheriff's Office**  
Timothy Del Florentino  
[Wyantc@mendocinocounty.org](mailto:Wyantc@mendocinocounty.org)

**Mendocino County Cannabis Program**  
[Cannabisprogram@mendocinocounty.org](mailto:Cannabisprogram@mendocinocounty.org)

**Mendocino County Code Enforcement**  
Gretchen McLaughlin  
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**Mendocino Agricultural Commissioner**  
Harinder Grewal  
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**Department of Cannabis Control**  
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May 27, 2026

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