



State Water Resources Control Board

JUN 15 2026

CERTIFIED MAIL

Ramiro Torres Soto

CERTIFIED MAIL NO: 9589 0710 5270 2654 1056 95

NOTICE OF VIOLATION

Investigation ID: 0000070671

DIVISION OF WATER RIGHTS INVESTIGATION OF MENDOCINO COUNTY ASSESSOR PARCEL NUMBER (APN) 021-310-08-00

Ramiro Torres Soto,

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. At the time of inspection, Division staff identified that you are using ground water for cannabis cultivation and are required to comply with the Cannabis Cultivation Policy (Cannabis Policy) terms and conditions as identified below. You must take immediate action to come into compliance or risk civil liability.

Violations and Corrective Actions

The information below describes the alleged WC violations observed and the corrective actions necessary to bring the cannabis cultivation activities into compliance with the WC and the State Water Board's Cannabis Cultivation Policy requirements.

The following are alleged violations of a Principle, Guideline, or Requirement of the State Water Board's Cannabis Policy, Attachment A, pursuant to WC section 13149.

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

Violation: Cannabis Cultivation Policy, Section 2, Term 92 - Water Storage Facility Without Device to Prevent Water Overflow.

No. of Violations: 2

Description:

The Owner is alleged to have violated Term 92 of Section 2 of the Cannabis Policy, which states: *To prevent rupture or overflow and runoff, cannabis cultivators shall only use water storage tanks and bladders equipped with a float valve, or equivalent device, to shut off diversion when storage systems are full. Cannabis cultivators shall install any other measures necessary to prevent overflow of storage systems to prevent runoff and the diversion of more water than can be used and/or stored.*

WC section 1847, subdivision (a), provides that any person or entity committing a violation of the above referenced requirement may be liable in an amount not to exceed the sum of seven hundred dollars (\$700), plus three hundred dollars (\$300) for each additional day on which the violation continues if the person fails to correct the violation within 30 days after the board has called the violation to the attention of that person, plus three thousand dollars (\$3,000) for each acre-foot of water diverted or used in violation of the applicable requirement.

At the time of the Apr 30, 2026 inspection, Division staff documented Place of Storage (POS) 1, a green 2,500-gallon polyethylene water tank (Tank 1) and POS2 a white 275-gallon polyethylene water tank (Tank 2). Tanks 1 and 2 were without a float valve or similar device installed to prevent the overflow and waste of water (Photos 1 and 2). The failure to have float valves or similar devices at these POS constitutes two violations of Term 92 of Section 2 of the Cannabis Policy.

Corrective Action:

You should within 30-days from the date of this inspection notice take either corrective action 1 or 2 to comply with the Cannabis Policy's storage overflow requirements for, but not limited to POS1 (Tank 1) and POS2 (Tank 2):

- 1) You must install float valves or other equivalent device on Tank 1 and Tank 2 to shut off a diversion when the storage system is full; **OR**
- 2) You must cease diverting water to POS1 (Tank 1) and POS2 (Tank 2) for cannabis cultivation.

You must also submit photographic proof and/or other documentation that supports your corrective actions taken whether you choose compliance option 1 or 2. You can submit your documents by email to Todd.Tyler@Waterboards.ca.gov.

Violation: Cannabis Cultivation Policy, Section 2, Term 93 - Failure to Secure Tank Openings to Prevent Entry and Entrapment of Wildlife.

No. of Violations: 2

Description:

The Owner is alleged to have violated Term 93 of Section 2 of the Cannabis Policy, which states: *Cannabis cultivators shall ensure that all vents and other openings on water storage tanks are designed to prevent the entry and/or entrapment of wildlife.*

WC section 1847, subdivision (a), provides that any person or entity committing a violation of the above referenced requirement may be liable in an amount not to exceed the sum of seven hundred dollars (\$700), plus three hundred dollars (\$300) for each additional day on which the violation continues if the person fails to correct the violation within 30 days after the board has called the violation to the attention of that person, plus three thousand dollars (\$3,000) for each acre-foot of water diverted or used in violation of the applicable requirement.

At the time of the Apr 30, 2026 inspection, Division staff observed storage tanks in use at the Property located at POS1 (Tank 1) and POS2 (Tank 2) without tank lids installed as required by the Cannabis Policy to prevent wildlife entrapment (Photos 3 and 4). The failure to ensure coverage of the water storage tanks to prevent wildlife entrapment at 2 tanks constitutes 2 violations of Term 93 of Section 2 of the Cannabis Policy.

Corrective Action:

You should within 30-days from the date of this inspection notice take corrective actions listed below: **OR**

1) You must install and maintain sealed, manufactured tank covers over the tops of Tank 1 and Tank 2; **OR**

2) You must cease diverting water to POS1 (Tank 1) and POS2 (Tank 2) for cannabis cultivation, and maintain your tanks closed to the environment which includes maintaining the top cover of your tanks if they will no longer be in use.

You must also submit photographic proof and/or other documentation that supports your corrective actions taken whether you choose compliance option 1 or 2. You can submit your documents by email to Todd.Tyler@Waterboards.ca.gov.

Violation: Cannabis Cultivation Policy, Section 2, Term 98 – Failure to Maintain Daily Records of Water Use for Cannabis Irrigation.

No. of Violations: 1

Description:

The Owner is alleged to have violated Term 98 of Section 2 of the Cannabis Policy, which states: *Cannabis cultivators shall maintain daily records of all water used for irrigation of cannabis. Daily records may be calculated by the use of a measuring device*

or, if known, by calculating the irrigation system rates and duration of time watered (e.g., irrigating for one hour twice per day using 50 half-gallon irrigation emitters equates to 50 gallons per day (1 hour x 2 times per day x 50 irrigation emitters x 0.5 gallons per irrigation emitter per hour) of water used for irrigation). Cannabis cultivators shall retain, for a minimum of five years, irrigation records at the cannabis cultivation site and shall make all irrigation records available for review by the Water Boards, CDFW, and any other authorized representatives of the Water Boards or CDFW.

WC section 1847, subdivision (a), provides that any person or entity committing a violation of the above referenced requirement may be liable in an amount not to exceed the sum of seven hundred dollars (\$700), plus three hundred dollars (\$300) for each additional day on which the violation continues if the person fails to correct the violation within 30 days after the board has called the violation to the attention of that person, plus three thousand dollars (\$3,000) for each acre-foot of water diverted or used in violation of the applicable requirement.

POU1 is a documented cannabis cultivation area (Photos 5 – 7). At the time of inspection, Division staff did not observe any cannabis irrigation records nor any water measuring devices at this POU. This is your notice that the State Water Board is requesting your daily records of water use for cannabis irrigation. The failure to measure water use for cannabis irrigation and make cannabis irrigation records available constitutes one violation of Term 98 of Section 2 the Cannabis Policy.

Corrective Action:

You should within 30-days from the date of this inspection notice take either corrective actions 1 or 2 to comply with the Cannabis Policy's cannabis irrigation record requirements for POU1 to quantify all water use on the Property:

- 1) You must send the Division all records required to support that you are in compliance with Term 98; **OR**
- 2) You must cease your water diversions for cannabis cultivation.

You must also submit photographic proof and/or other documentation that supports your corrective actions taken whether you choose compliance option 1 or 2. You can submit your documents by email to Todd.Tyler@Waterboards.ca.gov.

Right to Further Enforcement

The State Water Board retains the authority and discretion to take an enforcement action based on the facts and allegations contained herein and may initiate enforcement action without further notice. Failure to immediately take all the recommended actions described above or otherwise submit a response indicating any course of action you intend to take and include an implementation plan with a schedule may result in increased penalties. The State Water Board may consider any corrective actions taken and any statements provided will be verified in the upcoming season.

Compliance Assistance References

The references below provide additional information related to the Cannabis Policy's requirements and the Division of Water Rights programs.

Cannabis Policy Document:

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/cannabis/docs/policy/final_cannabis_policy_with_attach_a.pdf

General Water Right information:

<https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/>

Apply for an Appropriative Water Right Registration:

<https://calwatrs.waterboards.ca.gov/portal/s/registration>

Statement of Water Diversion and Use Program:

<https://calwatrs.waterboards.ca.gov/portal/s/statement-of-use-initiate>

Please contact Todd Tyler by phone at (916) 319-0217, or by email at todd.tyler@waterboards.ca.gov. Please reference your Investigation ID **0000070671** and APN **021-310-08** when contacting the Division. 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 95812-0100, Attention: Todd Tyler.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY:

Todd Tyler
Senior Engineering Geologist Specialist
Cannabis Enforcement Unit
Division of Water Rights

Enclosures:

Inspection Map APN: **021-310-08-00 Figure 1 Inspection Map**

ec: **Property Owner**
ramiro_jr91@hotmail.com

**ec: Division of Water Rights -
Cannabis Enforcement**
Taro Murano
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Stormer Feiler
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Department of Fish and Wildlife

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North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

Northcoast.Cannabis@waterboards.ca.gov

Mendocino County Sheriff's Office

Timothy Del Florentino
wyantc@mendocinocounty.org

Mendocino County Cannabis Program

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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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