



State Water Resources Control Board

September 24, 2026

CERTIFIED MAIL

Mark Switzer
Property Owner and Manager

DELIVERY MAIL NO: 9589 0710 5270 1738 1252 53

Brandon Pranes, Manager

Palo Verde Farms, LLC Attn:
Brandon Pranes

DELIVERY MAIL NO: 9589 0710 5270 1738 1252 60

DELIVERY MAIL NO: 9589 0710 5270 1738 1252 77

NOTICE OF VIOLATION

Investigation ID: 70439

DIVISION OF WATER RIGHTS INVESTIGATION OF HUMBOLDT COUNTY ASSESSOR PARCEL NUMBER (APN) 218-061-001-000, 218-061-006-000

Mark Switzer, Property Owner and Manager
Brandon Pranes, Manager
Palo Verde Farms, LLC

On August 11, 2026, staff from the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board), Division of Water Rights (Division), in coordination with the Department of Cannabis Control (DCC), conducted a consent inspection and investigation of the above-referenced property (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 receiving this correspondence because you were identified as either the property owner of the Humboldt County APNs identified above or a manager of Palo Verde Farms, LLC, the licensed cannabis cultivation business operating on the

Property, where water is allegedly being diverted and stored and licensed cannabis cultivation activities are occurring.

During the investigation, Division staff observed alleged violations of the California Water Code (WC) and the State Water Board's Cannabis Cultivation Policy (Policy). Enclosed is the Division's Notice of Violation and Inspection Report (NOV/IR) for your Property, which describes staff observations, the alleged violations, and the corrective actions necessary to achieve compliance with the WC and the Policy. This NOV/IR constitutes your notice of the alleged violations. A summary of the alleged violations is provided below.

Violations and Corrective Actions.....	16-24
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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, include 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) 341-5391, or by email at Christopher.Vandewyngard@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: Christopher Van de Wyngard.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY:

Christopher Van de Wyngard
Water Resource Control Engineer
Cannabis Enforcement Unit
Division of Water Rights

Enclosures:

Division of Water Rights Inspection Report dated August 11, 2026

ec: Division of Water Rights - Cannabis Enforcement

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