

ITEM: 9

SUBJECT: James G. Sweeney and Amelia M. Sweeney,
Sweeney Dairy, Tulare County

BOARD ACTION: Consideration of an Administrative Civil Liability Order

BACKGROUND: James G. Sweeney and Amelia M. Sweeney (Discharger) own and operate the Sweeney Dairy (Dairy) in Tulare County. The Dairy is regulated by Waste Discharge Requirements General Order for Existing Milk Cow Dairies, Order R5-2007-0035 (General Order), which was adopted in May 2007. The General Order contains reporting requirements for dairies regulated by the General Order, including timely submission of technical reports. The reports are required to document that the dairies are operating in compliance with the General Order and are not unreasonably affecting groundwater and/or surface water quality. The Discharger failed to submit the following technical reports by the respective due dates: 1) an Annual Report for the calendar year 2009, due by 1 July 2010; and 2) a Waste Management Plan, due by 1 July 2010. Central Valley Water Board staff issued notices of violation to the Discharger for failure to submit these required reports. To date, the Discharger has not submitted the reports.

ISSUES: On 5 May 2011, the Executive Officer issued Administrative Civil Liability (ACL) Complaint R5-2011-0562 pursuant to California Water Code (CWC) section 13268, proposing that the Discharger be assessed monetary penalties in the amount of \$11,400 for failure to submit the technical reports. The ACL Complaint provided the opportunity for the Discharger to reduce the full amount of the assessed monetary penalty by \$2,000 for each of the missing reports that is submitted by 20 June 2011, in an effort to stimulate compliance. The ACL Complaint was accompanied by Hearing Procedures which describe the process that must be followed if the matter proceeds to a hearing. On 31 May 2011, the Discharger submitted a waiver of the 90-day hearing requirement in order to extend the hearing date and/or hearing deadlines and to request additional

time at the hearing. However, on 13 June 2011, the Chair of the Fresno Hearing Panel denied both requests. The Discharger submitted evidence and argument by the 13 June 2011 deadline provided in the Hearing Procedures.

RECOMMENDATION: Prosecution Team recommends that the Central Valley Water Board adopt the Administrative Civil Liability Order as proposed.

Mgmt. Review_____

Legal Review_____

14 July 2011

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