

## North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

November 13, 2024

Aaron Lieberman  
2462 Sonnenfelt Road  
Bayside, CA 95524  
[aaronl707@gmail.com](mailto:aaronl707@gmail.com)

Paradise Valley, LLC  
Northcoast Investment Group LLC  
Northland Management Group LLC  
c/o Maureen McCready  
1160 G Street, Suite A  
Arcata, CA 95518

Dear Aaron Lieberman, Paradise Valley LLC, Northland Management Group LLC,  
Northcoast Investment Group LLC:

Subject: Notice of Violation of Cleanup and Abatement and Water Code Section 13267  
Order No. R1-2024-0047 for Humboldt County Assessor's Parcel Numbers  
220-292-015, 20-292-017, and 220-292-018

File: Cannabis Program, Humboldt County, 2024, WDID 1\_12CC407174

This letter provides you with notice that you are in violation of Required Action No. 1 of Cleanup and Abatement and Investigative Order No. R1-2024-0047 (the Order), for failure to submit a complete Cleanup, Restoration and Monitoring Plan (CRMP) by November 8, 2024.

### Background

On September 17, 2024, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) issued you the Order due to discharges and threatened discharges associated with developed features and site conditions that have created or threaten to create a condition of pollution on Humboldt County Assessor's Parcel Numbers 220-292-015, 20-292-017, and 220-292-018 (the Property).

The Order directs you to propose, for review and concurrence, an assessment of the developed features on the Property and their actual and potential impacts to waters of

the state and the implementation of remediation actions to cleanup and abate the discharge of earthen materials and untreated stormwater into Miller and Blue-Slide Creek and their unnamed tributaries. Additionally, the Order requires that you provide monitoring and technical reports to ensure and demonstrate that you are implementing adequate cleanup, restoration, and remediation measures, and to document and report on the completed restoration's effectiveness. The Order includes requirements that plans and reports be prepared under the direction of appropriately qualified and registered professionals.

Required Action 1 of the Order requires that you submit a proposed CRMP, subject to review and concurrence by the Regional Water Board or its delegated officer. The CRMP shall describe an impact assessment, a proposed plan for Property cleanup and restoration, an implementation schedule for completion by September 15, 2025, and proposed success criteria. The plan shall include proposed sediment and erosion control measures for the Property to ensure protection of water quality until the complete implementation of the CRMP, including this winter.

Prior to issuance of the finalized Order, on July 1, 2024, Regional Water Board staff (Staff) provided a draft Order to you, advising you of the Regional Water Board's intent to issue a final order and soliciting your comments on the draft Order, as well as any additional evidence you would like to be considered in finalizing the Order. You did not provide any comments on the draft Order. On July 31, 2024, on behalf of Aaron Lieberman, Margro Advisors responded to Staff, expressing your intent to meet the requirements described in the draft Order, including the deadline for the submission of the CRMP by November 8, 2024. As of the date of this letter, the Regional Water Board has not received a CRMP submission.

### **Noncompliance with the Order**

You have failed to fulfill Required Action 1 of the Order by November 8, 2024, which pursuant to Water Code Section 13267 requires you to submit a complete proposed CRMP, subject to review and concurrence by the Regional Water Board or its delegated officer, resulting in five (5) days of violation as of the date of this letter.

This violation is ongoing and will accrue additional days of violation until the required actions are satisfied. Pursuant to Water Code section 13350, violations of requirements imposed pursuant to Water Code section 13267 may result in administrative civil liability of up to \$1,000 per day. Attachment A – Regulatory Citations, provides references to these, and related, requirements and regulations.

Future correspondence regarding the Order will be sent to you at these addresses unless an alternative address is provided to the Regional Water Board. Failure to accept mail from the Regional Water Board is not a valid excuse for non-compliance with any future enforcement orders, and a failure to respond or otherwise appear at a future enforcement proceeding could subject you to a default order and the imposition of administrative civil liability.

If you have questions concerning the Order or this notice, please contact Adona White of my staff by phone at (707) 576-2672 or by email at [Adona.White@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Adona.White@waterboards.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

Jeremiah Puget  
Senior Environmental Scientist  
Enforcement Unit

**cc:**

**North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board**

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**State Water Resources Control Board's Office of Chief Council**

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**State Water Resources Control Board's Office of Enforcement**

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**Department of Fish and Wildlife**

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**Humboldt County Planning and Permitting**

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**Department of Cannabis Control**

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**Margro Advisors**

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## Attachment A – Regulatory Citations

<b>Regulatory Section</b>	<b>Citation</b>
California Water Code Section 13267(a)	A regional board, in establishing or reviewing any water quality control plan or waste discharge requirements, or in connection with any action relating to any plan or requirement authorized by this division, may investigate the quality of any waters of the state within its region.
California Water Code Section 13267(b)	In conducting an investigation specified in subdivision (a), the regional board may require that any person who has discharged, discharges, or is suspected of having discharged or discharging, or proposes to discharge waste within its region...that could affect the quality of waters within its region shall furnish, under penalty of perjury, technical or monitoring program reports which the regional board requires. The burden, including costs, of these technical reports shall bear a reasonable relationship to the need for the reports and the benefits to be obtained from the reports.
California Water Code Section 13268(a)(1)	Any person failing or refusing to furnish technical or monitoring program reports as required by subdivision (b) of Section 13267, failing or refusing to furnish information as required by subdivision (a) or (b) of Section 13267.5, or failing or refusing to furnish a statement of compliance as required by subdivision (b) of Section 13399.2, or falsifying any information provided therein, is guilty of a misdemeanor, and may be liable civilly in accordance with subdivision (b).
California Water Code Section 13268(b)(1)	Civil liability may be administratively imposed by a regional board in accordance with Article 2.5 (commencing with Section 13323) of Chapter 5 for a violation of subdivision (a) in an amount which shall not exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000) for each day in which the violation occurs.
California Water Code Section 13304(a)	A person who has discharged or discharges waste into waters of this state in violation of any waste discharge requirements or other order or prohibition issued by a regional board or the state board, or who has caused or permitted, causes or permits, or threatens to cause or permit any waste to be discharged or deposited where it is, or probably will be, discharged into the waters of the state and causes, or threatens to create, a condition of pollution or nuisance, shall upon order of the regional board clean up the waste or abate the effects of the waste, or, in the case of threatened pollution or nuisance, take other necessary remedial action, including, but not limited to, overseeing cleanup and abatement efforts....Upon failure of any person to comply with the cleanup or abatement order, the Attorney General, at the request of the board, shall

## Attachment A – Regulatory Citations

Regulatory Section	Citation
	petition the superior court for that county for the issuance of an injunction requiring the person to comply with the order. In the suit, the court shall have jurisdiction to grant a prohibitory or mandatory injunction, either preliminary or permanent, as the facts may warrant.
California Water Code Section 13350(a)	A person who (1) violates a cease and desist order or cleanup and abatement order hereafter issued, reissued, or amended by a regional board or the state board, or (2) in violation of a waste discharge requirement, waiver condition, certification, or other order or prohibition issued, reissued, or amended by a regional board or the state board, discharges waste, or causes or permits waste to be deposited where it is discharged, into the waters of the state, or (3) causes or permits any oil or any residuary product of petroleum to be deposited in or on any of the waters of the state, except in accordance with waste discharge requirements or other actions or provisions of this division, shall be liable civilly, and remedies may be proposed, in accordance with subdivision (d) or (e).
California Water Code Section 13350(e)	<p>The state board or a regional board may impose civil liability administratively pursuant to Article 2.5 (commencing with Section 13323) of Chapter 5 either on a daily basis or on a per gallon basis, but not on both.</p> <p>(1) The civil liability on a daily basis shall not exceed five thousand dollars (\$5,000) for each day the violation occurs.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(A) When there is a discharge, and a cleanup and abatement order is issued, except as provided in subdivision (f), the civil liability shall not be less than five hundred dollars (\$500) for each day in which the discharge occurs and for each day the cleanup and abatement order is violated.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(B) When there is no discharge, but an order issued by the regional board is violated, except as provided in subdivision (f), the civil liability shall not be less than one hundred dollars (\$100) for each day in which the violation occurs.</p> <p>(2) The civil liability on a per gallon basis shall not exceed ten dollars (\$10) for each gallon of waste discharged.</p>