

California Regional Water Quality Control Board North Coast Region

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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NORTH COAST REGIONAL WATER BOARD FINES THE UC BODEGA MARINE LABORATORY WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT FOR VIOLATIONS ASSOCIATED WITH ITS WASTE SEAWATER TREATMENT SYSTEM

SANTA ROSA – On June 10, 2010, the North Coast Regional Water Board fined the UC Bodega Marine Laboratory \$15,000 for six violations which occurred between March 1, 2008 and March 31, 2009. Five of the violations are for residual chlorine discharges and one is for discharging unsettled solids associated with lab operations and inadequately treated waste seawater from its wastewater treatment plant.

Harm from these discharges is minimal, but they are of particular concern because Bodega Marine Laboratory sits on the shore of the Bodega Area of Special Biological Significance (ASBS). The ASBS is an area designated by the State for special enforcement of water quality standards because it shelters an unusual variety of rare or valuable species. The laboratory operates under an unusually strict discharge permit because of its location. It uses water from the ASBS to maintain specimens and for experimentation within the facility. The water is then treated with chlorine and returned to the ASBS.

The UC Bodega Marine Laboratory has paid \$5,000 of the fine to the State Water Pollution Cleanup and Abatement Account (CAA) and will apply the remainder of the fine to a Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP) consisting of reopening the Lab's touch tidepool, a display that was very popular with visitors, but had been closed due to equipment failure and budget cuts.

The North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board's mission is to preserve, enhance and restore California's water resources and ensure their proper allocation and efficient use for the benefit of present and future generations.

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