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## Counties face fines over sewage spills

Sacramento Business Journal - by [Celia Lamb](#) Staff writer

Regulators have proposed levying six-figure fines against both Sacramento County and Placer County for sewage spills, the **Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board** said Friday.

The **Sacramento Area Sewer District** faces a fine of \$201,000 for about 886,000 gallons of raw sewage that spilled into Arcade Creek and other surface waters from Nov. 2, 2006 through April 14, 2008. The largest spill happened on Feb. 13, when more than 700,000 gallons spilled into Arcade Creek after a pipeline bridging the creek collapsed.

The sewer district serves much of unincorporated Sacramento County, Citrus Heights and parts of Elk Grove and Rancho Cordova.

The board also has proposed fining Placer County and the City of Roseville \$126,000 for a sewer line break in December.

The spill happened when a contractor broke a pipe while excavating for an unrelated project, according to the board. About 559,000 gallons of sewage spewed out over four hours from a 16-inch pressurized pipe that carries sewage east along Dry Creek to a wastewater treatment plant in Roseville. About 80 percent flowed into Dry Creek near Cook-Riolo Road.

The **Placer County Facility Services Department** owns and operates the sewer system in several unincorporated areas of the county, and the city of Roseville owns and operates the Dry Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant.

The board is expected to decide whether to charge the penalties at one of its regular public board meetings on July 31 or August 1.