



***PROTECTING OUR WATER & ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES  
And  
CALIFORNIA SPORTFISHING PROTECTION ALLIANCE***

**For Immediate Release  
August 27, 2014**

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**MAJOR PARTIAL SETTLEMENT REACHED IN ONE OF TWO SUITS RELATING  
TO WELL DRILLING PERMITS IN STANISLAUS COUNTY**

August 27, 2014 --- Early this year two conservation organizations – POWER and CSPA – filed two suits against Stanislaus County and a number of parties who had received well drilling permits from the County. The second suit (*POWER v. Stanislaus County*, Case No. 2006276) sought revocation of some sixty well permits, which petitioners alleged were issued without proper environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The first suit (*POWER v. Stanislaus County*, Case No. 2006153) seeks a court declaration that all future well permits be subjected to review under CEQA. That case remains pending, with a possible court hearing later this year.

The settlement reached in the second suit calls for dismissal of the settling permit holders and their permits from the suit, in return for their contributions to an earmarked fund administered by CSPA to study groundwater conditions in the county. Settlement funds for this purpose total approximately \$190,000 to date. The second suit will continue against permit holders who have not settled.

For further information contact POWER's representative, Jerry Cadagan, or CSPA's Executive Director, Bill Jennings, or their attorney, Thomas Lippe, with questions.

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**List of permit holders agreeing to the Settlement**

Alldrin Brothers

AA Ranches

Beyer Family Ranch

L. Bricchetto and L&J Bricchetto Trust

WJ Merrill Company

Naraghi Farms

Millcreek Farming – Stueve Bros.

S&R Rodoni Farms

Wolf Farms