Nitrate removal records dating to 1986 — Strathmore, Tulare County

Strathmore's nitrate problem is, by the official record, the longest-documented water contamination case in this entire project — a "Nitrate Removal Program" filed with the state in 1986, nearly forty years before this research pass.

1986

Year the Strathmore Public Utility District's first state-filed nitrate removal project appears in the record — the earliest documented contamination case in this project.

3

Separate state project filings found for Strathmore's nitrate problem across roughly a decade — a removal program, a compliance project, and continued monitoring.

What happened

The Strathmore Public Utility District's nitrate contamination has a documented paper trail stretching back to at least 1986, when a "Water System — Nitrate Removal Program" and a "Strathmore PUD Nitrate Removal" project both appear in the state clearinghouse record, followed by a 1995 "Water Supply/Nitrate Compliance Project." Tulare County's Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board issued an enforcement order (R5-2016-0061) specific to the county's nitrate problems in 2016, three decades after Strathmore's first documented removal effort. We were not able to confirm, in this pass, whether Strathmore's nitrate contamination has since been fully resolved or remains ongoing in some form.

Impact — what we know, and what we don't

- **Current nitrate status:** Not confirmed — the paper trail establishes a near-40-year history of state-filed projects, not a current compliance status.
- **Population and farm-labor share:** Not captured in this pass.
- **Total cost across all three documented projects:** Not available in the sources reviewed.

Part of a larger pattern

Strathmore's near-40-year documented history is this project's starkest illustration of how long a "small" water problem can persist in official records without a clean resolution — longer than **Lanare's** thirteen years or **Allensworth's** twelve-year arsenic gap, both of which at least have confirmed modern fixes. Strathmore's case reminds us that a documented project filing is not the same thing as a documented fix.

Sources

- California Environmental Quality Act project filings: "Water System-Nitrate Removal Program" (SCH No. 1986110933); "Strathmore PUD Nitrate Removal" (SCH No. 1986100602); "Water Supply/Nitrate Compliance Project" (SCH No. 1995062043). Access: not-captured — a public URL exists for this source and this project has not recorded it.
- California Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board, Order R5-2016-0061. Access: not-captured — a public URL exists for this source and this project has not recorded it.

Full citation detail and source archive: **Data**. Back to **water insecurity in the Central Valley**.