



## State Water Resources Control Board

1001 I Street • Sacramento, California 95814

Phone: (916) 341-5254 Fax: (916) 341-5252

Web site: <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov> • Email: [info@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:info@waterboards.ca.gov)



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Contact: Public Affairs

916-341-5254

### **STATE WATER BOARD RECEIVES \$15.6 MILLION IN STIMULUS FUNDS TO CLEAN ABANDONED, CONTAMINATED UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK SITES**

**The funds will protect the environment and create approximately 100 jobs.**

(Sacramento) Today, the State Water Board received \$15.6 million from the US EPA to clean up petroleum contamination from leaking underground storage tanks at abandoned (orphaned) properties. California is receiving more funding from the federal government's American Recovery & Reinvestment Act (ARRA), Leaking Underground Storage Tank (LUST) Trust Fund, than any other state in the country. A total of \$190.7 million has been allocated to all states and territories for the cleanup of petroleum contamination at these orphaned sites.

There are approximately 150 identified orphaned properties in California. Most of the properties had been gas stations. They are considered to be "orphan sites" because no financially responsible party has been identified to pay for the cleanup, or the responsible party is unwilling or unable to pay, or there is an emergency response needed.

Left untreated, the contamination at these sites can inhibit redevelopment of the properties, particularly those sites in city centers, thereby contributing to blight and joblessness in surrounding communities.

The financing for contracts and grants to clean up the orphan sites is being processed through existing programs managed by the State Water Board – the Orphan Site Cleanup Fund and the Emergency, Abandoned & Recalcitrant Account.

The State Water Board expects that at least 100 jobs will be created in connection with the cleanup of orphan sites through federal economic stimulus funding.

"The State Water Board is in the process of identifying shovel-ready projects so we can both get people back to work and protect water quality," said Charlie Hoppin, Chair of the State Water Board "We anticipate allocating funds within

the next two months to eligible applicants including public agencies, non-profit groups, and private entities.”

For more information re: the cleanup of orphaned leaking underground storage tanks and an application see:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/ustcf/oscf.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/ustcf/oscf.shtml)

In addition to the \$15.6 million for orphaned leaking underground storage tank sites, the State Water Board has received \$270 million for clean water projects including wastewater treatment plant construction, upgrades and infrastructure repair, as well as for “green” projects including recycling water technologies. To date, more than \$100 million has been allocated for those shovel ready projects that are expected to create or retain 880 jobs.

