



Enforcement News

Consultant to Serve Jail Time for Fraud against State's UST Cleanup Fund

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SACRAMENTO – Kurt Kane Hayden, 54, today pled guilty in Santa Barbara Superior Court to one felony count of filing a false claim in the form of fraudulent bills submitted to the State Water Resources Control Board's (State Water Board) Underground Storage Tank (UST) Cleanup Fund (Cleanup Fund).

As part of the plea agreement, Hayden will repay the Cleanup Fund \$1.6 million and serve 180 days in the county jail. In addition, Hayden will serve 3 years of probation, during which he will surrender his professional licenses and discontinue environmental remediation work.

The case was prosecuted by the Office of the Attorney General on behalf of the People of the State of California. The investigation was conducted by the Fraud, Waste, and Abuse Prevention (FWA) Unit within the State Water Board. The FWA Unit, originally a pilot project, was made permanent on April 1, 2013.

"The result of the Hayden case is a reflection of the Unit's dedication and commitment to prosecuting individuals committing fraud against the Cleanup Fund," said Cris Carrigan, Director of the Office of Enforcement. "Expect to see more prosecutions in the coming year."

This plea agreement resolves both the criminal and civil allegations against the Haydens and Hayden Environmental, Inc. Charges against co-owner and wife Julie Hayden have been dismissed.

A copy of the criminal plea will be found on the State Water Board's website by early next week at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/enforcement/orders_actions.shtml

A fact sheet on the State Water Board's efforts to prevent, investigate, and prosecute cases of fraud against the Cleanup Fund is on the State Water Board's website at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/publications_forms/publications/factsheets/docs/fraud_efforts_factsheet.pdf

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