



Enforcement News

State Water Board Settles Underground Storage Tank Cleanup Fund Cases with 5 PW Environmental Clients

Settlement Saves Cleanup Fund Over \$389,000; Consultant Pleads No Contest to Grand Theft

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SACRAMENTO – The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) has settled with five underground storage tank site owners that used contractor PW Environmental to investigate and remediate petroleum contamination at their sites.

The settlement comes after environmental consultant Jordan-Botke Enterprises, Inc., doing business as PW Environmental, pled no contest to a felony charge of grand theft related to overbilling the State Water Board's Underground Storage Tank Cleanup Fund, and paid \$19,000 in restitution.

As a result of the plea, the five site owners agreed to waive claims and appeals pending with the Cleanup Fund for work performed by PW Environmental at sites in Ventura, Los Angeles and Orange counties. The settlements resulted in a savings of more than \$389,000 to the Cleanup Fund.

"This administrative action serves as a warning to site owners who are not actively monitoring their environmental consultant," said Cris Carrigan, director of the Office of Enforcement. "Claimants are responsible for thoroughly examining requests for reimbursement before they submit them to the Cleanup Fund, and should question costs that they do not understand, or that appear unwarranted or excessive."

In addition to PW Environmental's criminal plea, a stipulated judgment was entered against the company on Sept. 10, 2015, in Ventura County Superior Court. As part of this civil action, PW paid \$281,000 to the Cleanup Fund in civil penalties, and co-owners Richard "Dick" Botke, William "Bill" Jordan and Kim Jordan were debarred from doing further business with any programs governed by the State Water Board.

In 2014 Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. signed into law Senate Bill 445, placing new safeguards to fight fraud against the Cleanup Fund. The law gives the State Water Board the authority to bar claimants and consultants from participating in the Cleanup Fund; impose



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penalties of up to \$500,000 per violation; recover costs for investigation and prosecution; and grants administrative authority to prosecute cases.

The stipulated judgment and the criminal and civil complaints for PW Environmental can be viewed on the [Office of Enforcement website](#).

For more information on the State Water Board's efforts to prevent, investigate and prosecute cases of fraud against the Cleanup Fund, see the [fact sheet](#).

Suspected fraud against the Cleanup Fund can be reported several ways including by email (reportfraud@waterboards.ca.gov), by toll-free message line (1-855-263-0863), or by mailing or faxing a Fraud Reporting Complaint Form to the State Water Board at:

State Water Board
Office of Enforcement
P. O. Box 100
Sacramento, CA 95812
Fax: (916) 341-5896

The Fraud Reporting Complaint Form can be found [online](#).

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