



# Enforcement News

## **Underground storage tank cleanup consultant Allterra Environmental settles with state over fraud allegations**

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Contact: George Kostyrko  
[George.Kostyrko@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:George.Kostyrko@waterboards.ca.gov)

**SACRAMENTO** – A Santa Cruz-based consulting company accused of inflating invoices tied to work with the Underground Storage Tank Cleanup Fund has agreed to pay more than \$100,000 in penalties as part of a [settlement agreement](#) with the State Water Resources Control Board.

The company, currently doing business as Allterra Solar, submitted invoices that included padded expenses, exaggerated hours for project management and excessive mileage tallies, according to the settlement approved today by the State Water Board.

“Honest invoicing of actual costs for reasonable and necessary services is essential to the relationship between the Cleanup Fund program and the consultant community,” said Yvonne West, director of the State Water Board’s Office of Enforcement. “We will vigorously investigate and prosecute firms and individuals who falsify invoices or otherwise inflate costs to obtain unjustified reimbursements.”

The State Water Board alleged that Allterra’s geologist made misrepresentations with reimbursement requests that included excessive project management hours as well as mileage reimbursement costs for employees who never requested reimbursement nor received the reimbursement funds that were paid to Allterra.

As part of the January 2020 settlement, Allterra will pay a \$106,533 penalty, and the company and its chief executive officer, James Allen, will be banned from participating in any State Water Board reimbursement program, including the Cleanup Fund.

A [website documents](#) the State Water Board’s efforts to prevent, investigate and prosecute cases of fraud, waste and/or abuse against the Cleanup Fund. Also, the State Water Board maintains an online [list of disqualified businesses and persons](#) banned from working for the State of California.

### ***How to Report Suspected Fraud, Waste and Abuse***

Suspected fraud, waste and/or abuse against the Cleanup Fund can be reported by email at [reportfraud@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto: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:





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

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