



Enforcement News

PW Environmental Pleads No Contest to Grand Theft Charge for Overbilling the State Water Board

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SACRAMENTO – The State Water Resources Control Board announced that Jordan-Botke Enterprises, Inc., also known as PW Environmental (PW), pled no contest to a felony charge of grand theft related to overbilling of cleanup costs submitted to the State Water Board’s Underground Storage Tank Cleanup Fund (Cleanup Fund). In addition to the plea, a civil judgment has also been levied against PW.

PW, originally named Pipe Ways, began as an agricultural piping company in 1979, working in the farms surrounding its headquarters in Santa Paula. In 1991, PW began performing investigation and remediation work at contaminated underground storage tank sites that received reimbursement from the Cleanup Fund. PW has worked at 60 such sites in the counties of Santa Barbara, Los Angeles, San Diego, San Luis Obispo, San Bernardino, Orange, Ventura and Kern.

As part of the felony plea, PW will pay \$19,000 in restitution. The civil settlement includes an additional payment of \$281,000 and debars co-owners Richard “Dick” Botke and William “Bill” Jordan and Kim Jordan from doing business with the State Water Board. This debarment prohibits the co-owners from working at Cleanup Fund sites, loan and grant sites, as well as other programs governed by the State Water Board.

Under the terms of the civil judgment all work performed by PW after Oct. 31, 2014, whether submitted or not yet submitted to the Cleanup Fund, is deemed unreasonable and unnecessary. Therefore, this work is not eligible for reimbursement by the Cleanup Fund, either through a claim or an appeal.

“This debarment is the first of its kind by the State Water Board,” said Cris Carrigan, Director of the Office of Enforcement. “The continued efforts of the Cleanup Fund and the Fraud, Waste, and Abuse Prevention unit are sending a strong message to environmental consultants. Fraud will not be tolerated; it will be pursued and prosecuted to the maximum extent allowable by law.”



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

The criminal and civil complaints, as well as the stipulated judgment are viewable on the [Office of Enforcement website](#).

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

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