



Enforcement News

State Water Board Settles More Storage Tank Cleanup Fund Claims Related to Alleged Contractor Negligence

Settlement Saves Underground Storage Tank Cleanup Fund More than \$19,000

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SACRAMENTO – The State Water Resources Control Board has settled with three more Underground Storage Tank Cleanup Fund (Cleanup Fund) claimants about costs billed to the Cleanup Fund for work conducted by their contractor.

These latest agreements stem from a January settlement between the State Water Board and environmental contractor Ami Adini & Associates over allegations of negligence and the submission of false information related to cleaning up petroleum contamination at the claimants' sites. The Cleanup Fund has settled six similar cases with claimants since 2016.

"It is unfortunate when site owners do not receive reimbursements due to their consultants' behavior," said Cris Carrigan, director of the Office of Enforcement. "Site owners need to manage their consultants and press them to clean up their contaminated property in the quickest and most cost effective manner. Site owners should be particularly alert when a cleanup seems to be dragging on without achieving site closure."

The three settlement agreements resolve all pending requests for reimbursement from the Cleanup Fund for the three Los Angeles County sites. In addition, all three claimants agree to waive appeals for any work performed by their contractor – Ami Adini & Associates. The settlements result in a savings of more than \$19,000 to the Cleanup Fund. These agreements do not relieve the claimants' responsibility to clean up their sites.

As part of the January 2017 settlement between Ami Adini & Associates and the State Water Board, Ami Adini & Associates agreed to surrender more than \$1 million in reimbursements it was seeking from the State Water Board's Cleanup Fund and, along with company principals Ami Adini and Elie Balas, agreed to never again perform work for any State Water Board program.

The settlement agreement with Ami Adini & Associates can be viewed on the [Office of Enforcement website](#).





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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 by email at 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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