



Enforcement News

San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board

San Diego Water Board Fines Industries for Failing to Comply with Storm Water Permits

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SAN DIEGO --- The Executive Officer of the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Diego Region (San Diego Water Board) has ordered a \$6,194 fine against A & L Tile Co. for its failure to comply with standardized statewide storm water permitting requirements for industrial facilities.

This action is part of a sweeping enforcement initiative targeting facilities that have refused to participate in the State Water Resources Control Board's [general industrial storm water permit process](#). The San Diego Water Board issued a \$12,458 fine against [GM Materials, Inc.](#) in September for the same violation and has proposed penalty actions currently pending for three other facilities in the San Diego region.

"This is about water quality. Most businesses do their part. Others create an unfair competitive advantage by unnecessarily creating a high risk for water pollution," said Executive Officer David Gibson. "Enforcement efforts like this serve as necessary deterrents. Our Board is always available to assist industry on a pathway to compliance in this important water quality requirement."

By law, A&L Tile Co.'s violation triggered a mandatory penalty. When the Legislature passed the Storm Water Enforcement Act in 1999, it established mandatory penalties for industrial facilities that fail, despite at least two clear notices, to enroll in the general industrial storm water permit. The general industrial storm water permit regulates industrial facilities associated with several broad categories of activities including cement manufacturing; oil and gas/mining; transportation; hazardous waste treatment, storage, or disposal; landfills, recycling; sewage treatment facilities; and certain other light industry.

These types of facilities are targeted because they have generally high potential to pollute downstream waters from their operations when it rains, yet can use relatively simple measures to minimize the pollution risk. In the case of A&L Tile, local and state inspectors pointed out that simple housekeeping efforts and planning would mitigate the water quality risk posed from the facility's stone cutting operations.



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“It’s hard to believe that facilities still reject assistance knowing that they face mandatory penalties for not complying with the statewide permit,” said Chiara Clemente of the San Diego Water Board’s enforcement team.

The regional board’s enforcement actions can be found [here](#).

The [San Diego Water Board](#) protects and restores water quality in the southwest portion of the State, including parts of San Diego, Riverside, and Orange Counties.