



Enforcement News

State Water Board Settles Storage Tank Cleanup Fund Claims Related to Alleged Contractor Negligence, False Information

Settlement Saves Underground Storage Tank Cleanup Fund More than \$30,000

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Jan. 18, 2017

Contact: Andrew DiLuccia
Phone: (916) 324-4775
andrew.diluccia@waterboards.ca.gov

SACRAMENTO – The State Water Resources Control Board has reached a settlement agreement with three underground storage tank site owners related to alleged negligence and false information by a contractor they hired to investigate and remediate petroleum contamination at their sites.

In June 2014, the California Office of the Attorney General, on behalf of the State Water Board, filed a complaint against Ami Adini & Associates (AAA) and its principal(s). The complaint alleges AAA submitted false information to the State Water Board's Underground Storage Tank Cleanup Fund (Cleanup Fund) in order to receive reimbursements, and that AAA was negligent in conducting environmental cleanups at gasoline storage sites.

The three settlement agreements resolve all outstanding costs invoiced to the Cleanup Fund. In addition, all three site owners agreed to waive appeals pending with the Cleanup Fund for work performed by AAA in Los Angeles and Sonoma county sites. The settlements resulted in a savings of more than \$30,000 to the Cleanup Fund. These settlements do not relieve the site owners' responsibility to clean up their sites.

"Site owners need to actively monitor their consultants' work, as well as the invoices they submit to the Cleanup Fund," said Cris Carrigan, director of the Office of Enforcement. "The Cleanup Fund will not reimburse owners for costs that are not eligible, necessary and reasonable. If owners do not monitor their consultants, they can exhaust available Cleanup Fund monies, leaving the site owner financially responsible for the remainder of the cleanup. This should not be happening as frequently as it does since the average cost to cleanup a petroleum-contaminated underground storage tank site in California is considerably less than the Cleanup Fund cap."

The complaint against AAA 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](#).





Enforcement News

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](#).

###

