



December 2004 Brownfields Workshop

Statutory Authority

California Water Code,
Division 7, Section 13304

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Spills, Leaks, Investigations and Cleanups Program

In the Spills, Leaks, Investigations & Cleanup (SLIC) Program, Water Board staff oversee soil and water investigations, corrective actions, and human health risk assessments at sites with current or historic unauthorized discharges, which have adversely affected or threaten to adversely affect waters of the state. The program covers all types of pollutants (such as solvents, petroleum fuels, heavy metals, pesticides, etc) and all environments (including surface water, groundwater, sediment, and soil). Public participation is conducted and tailored to the needs of the community.

The Water Code allows the Water Boards to recovery reasonable expenses from responsible parties to oversee investigation and cleanup activities. The responsible parties must sign an acknowledgement form stating the intent to pay oversight bills, and a unique account is set up for staff charges. Invoices are generated quarterly.

Procedures for site investigation and remediation are promulgated in State Water Resources Control Board Resolution No. 92-49 entitled *Policies and Procedures For Investigation and Cleanup and Abatement of Discharges Under Water Code Section 13304*. Responsible parties conduct work in a stepwise fashion, starting with preliminary assessment, then soil and water investigation; interim remedial measures if warranted; risk assessment; setting cleanup goals; cleanup plan; cleanup implementation and monitoring; and No Further Action determination. Most often, responsible parties conduct the work voluntarily, but sometimes enforcement orders are necessary to compel the work to be performed. As of December 1, 2004, about 1,600 sites are enrolled in the program.