



Enforcement News

State Water Resources Control Board

1001 I Street • Sacramento, California 95814

Phone: (916) 341-5254 Fax: (916) 341-5252

Web site: <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov>

Email: info@waterboards.ca.gov

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Contact: Kathie Smith

Phone: 916-341-5263

Judgment Entered Against Tesoro Corporation for Underground Storage Tank Monitoring and Testing Violations

SACRAMENTO – The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) has obtained a \$325,000 judgment against the Tesoro Companies, Inc. and Tesoro West Coast Company LLC. (Tesoro) for underground storage tank (UST) monitoring and testing violations documented at 12 gas stations owned and operated by Tesoro.

Tesoro is one of the largest independent refining and marketing companies in the Western United States, operating approximately 425 gas stations in California under the brands Tesoro, Shell, Mirastar and USA Petroleum. As an owner and operator of USTs, Tesoro is required to monitor, test, and maintain its gas stations to prevent the release of hazardous materials to the environment.

Over the past several years, investigators from the State Water Board and local Certified Unified Program Agencies (CUPA) from Butte, Glenn, Imperial and Ventura counties documented UST monitoring, testing and construction violations. These violations included: failure to monitor the UST tank and product piping; failure to maintain secondary containment and spill containment; and failure to perform 10-year tank lining and corrosion protection certifications.

Under the terms of the judgment, Tesoro will pay \$239,000 in penalties to the State Water Board and \$86,000 for investigation and enforcement costs. The State Water Board's investigation was a result of the cooperation and assistance received from the Department of Toxic Substances Control, Imperial County CUPA, Butte County Environmental Health Department (EHD), Glenn County EHD, City of Oxnard Fire Department, Ventura County EHD and the Western States Project.

"The State Water Board will continue to pursue owners and operators that are not maintaining and testing their USTs in accordance with state laws. These laws were created to protect our state's groundwater from contamination associated with leaking tanks, and we believe enforcement of these laws is a critical element to protecting water quality," said David Boyers, Acting Director of the State Water Board's Office of Enforcement.

The State Water Board was represented by the California Attorney General's Office in this enforcement case. A copy of the complete judgment, which was entered by the Los Angeles County Superior Court, can be found on the State Water Board's website at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/enforcement/orders_actions.shtml