



Changes In CA UST Enforcement: *What You Need to Know to Protect Yourself*

Presented by Lara Shortz, Esq.

Joined by Mark Mermelstein, Esq.



MICHELMAN & ROBINSON, LLP

ATTORNEYS AT LAW





Enforcement News

State Water Board Effort to Root out Suspected Fraudulent Billings to the Underground Storage Tank Cleanup Fund – Now Permanent

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 17, 2013

Contact: Chris Carrigan
Phone: (916) 341-5889

SACRAMENTO — On April 1 the State Water Resources Control Board gave the Office of Enforcement the go ahead to permanently staff a unit to root out fraud, waste and abuse against descriptions consultants and claimants submitting false, misleading, or inflated invoices for reimbursement to the Underground Storage Tank Cleanup Fund (UST Cleanup Fund).

The program was initially launched as a pilot program on January 27, 2010, at the time a \$1.2 million settlement was being finalized against E2C Remediation, Inc., a Central Valley environmental consulting firm. The Fraud, Waste and Abuse Prevention (FWAP) Unit identifies out patterns of fraud against the UST Cleanup Fund, then investigates and develops cases to refer to the State Attorney General's Office for potential criminal and/or civil prosecution.

Water Board Investigation

STEP 1: SELECT TARGET BASED ON RED FLAGS



Water Board Investigation

STEP 2: AUDIT



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STEP 3: IDENTIFY COMMON OVERBILLING SCHEMES



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STEP 4: REFER TO ATTORNEY GENERAL



Attorney General Investigation

Enforcement News



Search Warrant executed at Environmental Consulting Company, [REDACTED] in Fraud Investigation

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
[REDACTED]

Contact: Kathie Smith
Phone: (916) 341-5263

SACRAMENTO – The California State Attorney General's Office served a search warrant on [REDACTED] an environmental consulting firm at [REDACTED], as part of an ongoing investigation. Criminal and or civil filings may follow once investigators have a chance to review records seized during the search warrant.

The investigation involved claims submitted by [REDACTED] to the State Water Resources Control Board's (State Water Board) Underground Storage Tank Cleanup Fund (Cleanup Fund). The State Water Resources Control Board's (State Water Board) Underground Storage Tank Cleanup Fund (Cleanup Fund) reimburses up to \$1.5 million per site for investigation and cleanup-related costs incurred at contaminated petroleum sites due to a leaking underground storage tank.

[REDACTED]

"We hope by now consultants who have defrauded the Cleanup Fund and/or are considering doing so have received the message that the State Water Board is serious about investigating and prosecuting fraud against the Fund," said Cris Carrigan, Director of the State Water Board's Office of Enforcement.

The State Water Board's Fraud, Waste, and Abuse (FWA) Prevention Unit was formed in 2010. Since the formation of the FWA Prevention Unit, three search warrants have been executed at three separate consulting firms based on FWA investigations. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

This search warrant is part of the State Water Board's ongoing overall efforts to prevent and deter fraud against the Cleanup Fund.

A fact sheet on the State Water Board's efforts to prevent, investigate, and prosecute cases of fraud against the Cleanup Fund is on the State Water Board's website at:

Criminal Proceedings



Civil Actions



MITIGATING LIABILITY

- Insurance
- Compliance Program



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THANK YOU!

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NISTM
National Institute for
Storage Tank Management