



# Enforcement News

## Aqua Science Engineers to pay \$50,000, cease work with State Water Board for Alleged Abuses of Storage Tank Fund

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

June 30, 2017

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**SACRAMENTO** – The State Water Resources Control Board has reached a settlement agreement with Aqua Science Engineers (ASE) of Contra Costa and Orange counties over allegations of overbilling and other abuses against the [Underground Storage Tank Cleanup Fund](#) (Cleanup Fund). The environmental consulting company agreed to pay an administrative civil liability of \$50,000 and to cease all work on projects funded by the State Water Board.

The State Water Board settled this case using its authority under [Senate Bill 445](#), which took effect Sept. 25, 2014. The bill addresses underground storage tank issues related to hazardous substances, petroleum, groundwater and surface water contamination, and provides the State Water Board authority to administratively prosecute misrepresentations made to the Cleanup Fund. Aqua Science Engineers and its principals, David M. Schultz and David G. Allen, are disqualified from the Cleanup Fund and all its subaccounts under the terms of the settlement. They are also prohibited from doing work funded by the State Water Board's [Cleanup and Abatement Account](#) and its [Proposition 1](#) programs.

“Senate Bill 445 gives the State Water Board the authority to impose up to a \$500,000 penalty for each misrepresentation made in any document related to the Cleanup Fund,” said Cris Carrigan, director of the Office of Enforcement. “Consultants and contractors must recognize that misrepresentations made in technical reports may be subject to penalties.”

Aqua Science Engineers, incorporated in 1985, provides environmental consulting services throughout California, including Alameda, Contra Costa, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, Inyo, and Imperial counties. The State Water Board alleged misrepresentations with reimbursement requests containing ASE costs, including billing for labor which did not occur, charges for remediation systems that were never used, and related misrepresentations made in ASE's invoices and technical reports.

The settlement agreement can be viewed on the [Office of Enforcement's website](#).

For more information on the State Water Board's efforts to prevent, investigate and prosecute cases of fraud, waste and/or abuse against the Cleanup Fund, see the [fact sheet](#).

CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY



STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD

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Suspected fraud, waste and/or abuse against the Cleanup Fund can be reported by email at [reportfraud@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto: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](#).

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