



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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Feb. 26, 2014

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

\$4.8 Million Judgment Entered Against TravelCenters of America for Violations of Underground Storage Tank Leak Prevention Requirements

The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board), represented by the California Attorney General's Office, has obtained a \$4.8 million judgment against TravelCenters of America and its affiliates (collectively referred to as TA) for alleged underground storage tank (UST) leak prevention violations documented at six facilities owned or operated by TA in Merced and Kern counties.

TA operates and franchises 243 travel centers located in 41 U.S. states and the province of Ontario, Canada under the TravelCenters of America, TA and Petro brand names. TA facilities include diesel and gasoline fueling stations, restaurants, truck repair and maintenance service centers, and convenience stores.

Investigators from the State Water Board and Certified Unified Program Agencies (CUPA) in Merced and Kern counties documented alleged UST monitoring, testing and construction violations at TA facilities. These alleged violations included failure to perform timely secondary containment and annual monitoring certification tests; failure to install or repair line leak detectors; and failure of the primary or secondary containment to store a hazardous substance.

Under the terms of the judgment, which resulted from a settlement, TA will pay \$1 million in civil penalties to the State Water Board. TA will also pay \$800,000 to the State Water Board, Kern County Environmental Health Division (EHD), Merced County EHD, and the Western States Project for reimbursement of investigation and enforcement costs.

TA will receive up to \$2 million in credit for environmental improvements that enhance compliance at its facilities. These enhancements must exceed existing requirements, and include developing and implementing an Enhanced Environmental Compliance Program for 13 TA facilities in Kern, Merced, Riverside, San Bernardino, Shasta, and Tehama counties. The judgment also suspends \$1 million in penalties for a period of five years, provided that TA does not violate any of the UST leak prevention regulations detailed in the judgment.



“This case demonstrates the State Water Board’s continued commitment to upholding the UST laws, which protect our state’s groundwater from contamination associated with leaking tanks,” said Cris Carrigan, Director of the State Water Board’s Office of Enforcement. “We are pleased with the outcome of this case and believe that cases such as this are a critical element to protecting water quality in California.”

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 filed with the Merced 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