



Enforcement News

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD LOS ANGELES REGION

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Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board Proposes over \$400,000 Fine for Tesoro Pollution

The Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (Los Angeles Water Board) has announced a proposed settlement agreement in which the Tesoro Corporation will pay a \$440,670 fine for groundwater pollution. Approximately 638,400 gallons of naphtha, a volatile component of petroleum, had been released into groundwater from a corroded above-ground storage tank at the Tesoro Corporation's Los Angeles Refinery. The spill occurred on January 4, 2010.

The Los Angeles Water Board required the Tesoro Corporation to clean up and abate the naphtha release. According to the Los Angeles Water Board technical staff, a majority of the naphtha has been cleaned up and the release does not pose a threat to public health or drinking water supplies.

"The Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board is committed to ensuring that parties responsible for groundwater pollution be required to clean it up and to correct the cause(s) of that pollution," said Water Board Executive Officer Sam Unger. "Under the proposed settlement, we will be monitoring the groundwater to make certain that the cleanup is completed, as required. The public has until June 28, 2012 to comment on the proposed settlement. Following the close of the public comment period, the proposed settlement will must be approved by the Los Angeles Water Board before it can become final. If the settlement is approved, the \$440,670 fine will be deposited into the State Water Board's Cleanup and Abatement Account, which is used to assist in cleaning up polluted sites throughout California.

The Los Angeles Water Board protects and restores water quality in coastal watersheds in Los Angeles and Ventura Counties and in portions of Kern and Santa Barbara counties.

For additional information on the proposed settlement, visit
<http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles/>.



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