



Enforcement News

\$400,000 Judgment Entered for Underground Tank Violations in Kern, Merced and San Luis Obispo Counties

For Immediate Release

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SACRAMENTO – The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board), represented by the California Attorney General’s Office, has obtained a \$400,000 judgment against Jaco Oil Company and related entities, including Fastrup Food Stores, Inc.; Fastrup Oil Company, LP; Basic Properties, LP; Jaco Hill Company; and Jamieson Hill Company (collectively referred to as Jaco Oil) for monitoring and testing violations found at 14 underground storage tank (UST) facilities owned and operated by Jaco Oil in Kern, Merced, and San Luis Obispo counties.

Jaco Oil, based in Bakersfield is one of the largest independent gasoline marketers in the western United States. Jaco Oil owns and/or operates approximately 100 diesel and gasoline service stations in California. As an owner and operator of USTs, Jaco Oil is required to monitor, test and maintain their gas stations to prevent the release of hazardous materials to the environment.

“We’re pleased with the outcome of this case and remain committed to taking enforcement actions against UST owners and operators who fail to comply with the law,” said Cris Carrigan, director of the State Water Board’s Office of Enforcement. “Our goal is the protection of water quality, and the tank laws must be followed in order to prevent releases of hazardous substances to the environment.”

Investigators from the State Water Board and environmental health specialists from Kern, Merced and San Luis Obispo counties documented UST monitoring, testing and construction violations at Jaco Oil facilities over the last several years. These violations included: failure to perform tank lining inspections; failure to maintain a functional cathodic protection system; failure to perform annual monitoring certifications; and failure to perform secondary containment testing.

Under the terms of the judgment, which resulted from a settlement, Jaco Oil will pay \$325,000 to the State Water Board in civil penalties and \$75,000 for investigative and enforcement costs to be shared by all parties involved. The State Water Board’s investigation was a result of the cooperation and assistance received from Kern County Environmental Health Division (EHD), Merced County EHD, San Luis Obispo Environmental Health Services, and the Western States Project.





The State Water Board was represented by the California Attorney General's Office in this enforcement case.

A copy of the complete settlement (containing addresses of specific locations in each county where the violations occurred), which was filed with the San Luis Obispo 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

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