



Enforcement News

Hanover Environmental to Pay \$350,000 In Penalties; Debarred From Any State Water Board Work for Alleged Overbilling

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 5, 2016

Contact: Andrew DiLuccia

andrew.diluccia@waterboards.ca.gov

SACRAMENTO –California’s Office of the Attorney General, on behalf of the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board), has reached a stipulated judgment with Hanover Environmental Services, Inc. over allegations it overbilled the State Water Board’s Underground Storage Tank Cleanup Fund (Cleanup Fund). Hanover will pay the State Water Board \$350,000 and is debarred from future work with any State Water Board programs.

Hanover, based in Chico and owned by William and Carrie Bono, provided geological consulting services for more than 50 contaminated sites, including gas stations, throughout Northern California in Butte, Shasta, Colusa, Plumas, Sacramento, Sutter and Yuba counties. As part of the judgment, in addition to the debarment, Hanover and the Bonos are prohibited from assisting others that receive payment or reimbursement from the State Water Board. This prohibition extends to all work overseen, directed, funded or administered by the State Water Board.

In the complaint, filed May 30, 2014, in Butte County, the State Water Board alleged that Hanover charged for services that were not performed, and conducted substandard work that prolonged the remediation time and unnecessarily increased costs. The State Water Board alleged Hanover’s field records contained misrepresentations and inaccuracies that were used to support its invoices to the Cleanup Fund. The State Water Board also alleged that Hanover continued to bill for the operation of treatment systems long after those systems stopped providing an environmental benefit.

“Preventing consultants who have demonstrated their inability to adhere to professional standards from working not only on cleanups of petroleum underground storage tanks reimbursed by the Cleanup Fund, but also working on projects for other Water Board programs, saves taxpayers’ money and ensures quality environmental work. This debarment is another win for the State Water Board,” said Cris Carrigan, director of the State Water Board’s Office of Enforcement. “The Cleanup Fund is a limited resource which must be protected from fraud, waste and abuse.”

This latest enforcement action is based on an investigation conducted by the State Water Board’s Fraud, Waste and Abuse Prevention (FWA) Unit. Since 2010, the FWA Unit has

CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY



STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD

1001 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95814 • Mailing Address: P.O. Box 100, Sacramento, CA 95812-0100 • www.waterboards.ca.gov



referred cases to the Office of the Attorney General that have resulted in criminal and civil penalties, including recent criminal pleas by Jordan-Botke Enterprises, Inc., also known as PW Environmental. Special assistance in the Hanover case was provided by the Cleanup Fund, the California Regional Water Quality Control Boards, the Department of Toxic Substances Control and the Air Resources Board.

The stipulated judgment and civil complaint are available at the Office of Enforcement's [website](#).

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

Suspected fraud against the Cleanup Fund can be reported several ways including by email (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](#).

###