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\$6 Million Settlement Reached With Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority for Underground Storage Tank Violations

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SACRAMENTO – The State Water Resources Control Board has reached [a \\$6 million settlement](#) with Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) for alleged violations of regulations concerning storage of hazardous substances in underground storage tanks (UST) at 16 facilities owned by MTA.

The State Water Board's Office of Enforcement began an investigation in July 2015 under the Government Owned and/or Operated Tanks (GOT) initiative after alleged violations were identified during an inspection at one facility owned and operated by MTA. Concerned that similar violations existed at other MTA facilities, inspections were completed at the 15 remaining facilities by April 2016.

The GOT initiative is part of the state's Underground Storage Tank Program, which seeks to protect public health and safety and the environment from releases of petroleum and other hazardous substances from leaking underground tanks.

Some of the alleged violations by MTA include failure to maintain secondary containment; failure to monitor product piping; tampering with leak detection equipment; operating without a permit; failure to maintain primary containment; failure to maintain spill containment requirements; and failure to maintain UST monitoring systems.

"This settlement demonstrates that public and private tank owners will be held equally accountable in protecting water quality through the enforcement of UST statutes and regulations," said Yvonne West, director of the State Water Board's Office of Enforcement. "In this case, MTA has taken great steps forward in coming into compliance, and we expect the resolution will be effective in maintaining that compliance."

Under the terms of the settlement, MTA will pay \$2 million in civil penalties to the State Water Pollution Cleanup and Abatement Account and \$67,050 for reimbursement of enforcement costs. Another \$2 million will be suspended with the condition that MTA completes several enhanced compliance actions. The remaining \$2 million will also be suspended as long as MTA maintains compliance with the underground storage tank requirements specified in the judgment for a period of five years.



This lawsuit is the sixth enforcement action by the State Water Board's Office of Enforcement against a public entity under the State Water Board's Government Owned and/or Operated Tank (GOT) initiative that started in 2010 with the assistance of the U.S. Environmental



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Protection Agency. The purpose of the GOT initiative is to ensure that violations associated with USTs owned by local, state and federal agencies are handled in a similar manner as violations associated with privately owned USTs.

The [settlement agreement](#), filed in Los Angeles County Superior Court, can be found on the State Water Board's Office of Enforcement [website](#).

