



Enforcement News

Southern California consulting firm agrees to pay the state \$150,000 to resolve multiple fraud allegations

Invoices for underground tank cleanup reimbursement were inflated

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SACRAMENTO – A Los Angeles-based environmental consulting firm agreed to pay \$150,000 in penalties for submitting inflated invoices to the State Water Resources Control Board’s Underground Storage Tank Cleanup Fund for remediation work it performed at multiple locations.

A review of the invoices Associated Consulting Civil & Environmental Services submitted for reimbursement found that the company inflated labor hours, costs on rental units and subcontractor costs and was repaid for ineligible expenses.

As part of the settlement approved Jan.17 by the State Water Board, the consulting firm and its principal owner, Hamid Assadi, are also disqualified from participating in future State Water Board funding programs.

“This consulting firm’s deceptive business practices do a disservice to the honest companies who do the important work of cleaning up underground storage tank sites that are toxic and a threat to human health and the environment,” said Yvonne West, director of the board’s office of enforcement. “Fraud prevention staff diligently review reimbursement requests and, if our investigation reveals fraudulent submissions, we will take swift and aggressive action.”

More information on the [Underground Storage Cleanup Fund](#) and a list of businesses and individuals [disqualified](#) from working for the state is available on the board website.

The State Water Board’s mission is to preserve, enhance and restore the quality of California’s water resources and drinking water for the protection of the environment, public health and all beneficial uses, and to ensure proper allocation and efficient use for present and future generations.

