



Enforcement News

City of Glendale to Pay \$653,000 for Violating Consent Judgment in 2005 Underground Storage Tank Case

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SACRAMENTO – The city of Glendale has agreed to pay a \$653,000 penalty for violating the terms of a consent judgment related to violations of the underground storage tank (UST) regulations.

The judgment, entered on July 30, 2014 in Los Angeles County Superior Court, resolved violations alleged by the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) against the city that began in 2005. The alleged violations included failure to have a designated operator, failure to perform testing in a timely manner and failure to maintain leak detection equipment at eleven UST facilities, many of which are located at fire and police stations.

Under the terms of the 2014 judgment, the city paid \$192,500 in civil penalties and spent \$192,500 on a supplemental environmental project to research technologies for removing hexavalent chromium from groundwater. An additional \$615,000 in penalties was suspended conditioned on the city maintaining compliance with the UST requirements for a period of five years.

In January 2017, the State Water Board conducted compliance inspections at nine of the city's facilities and identified violations at all nine that triggered imposition of the suspended penalties. The alleged violations included failure to perform annual line leak detection testing and failure to meet designated operator inspection requirements. "When the city agreed to the 2014 consent judgment, it agreed to operate its tanks under a heightened standard of care. These violations show the city was careless yet again with its duty to maintain compliance at its UST facilities," said David Boyers, Assistant Chief Counsel with the State Water Board's Office of Enforcement.

The State Water Board recently reached a settlement agreement with the city regarding the alleged violations. The city will pay \$615,000 in suspended penalties and \$38,000 for reimbursement of enforcement costs. In addition, the city will engage and pay a contract consultant to serve as Designated Operator for all city facilities.

A copy of the settlement can be found on the State Water Board's website at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/enforcement/orders_actions.shtml

