



Spotlight on DTSC

DTSC Aids in Investigation as CPI International, Inc. is Fined \$135,000 for Illegal Disposal and Treatment of Hazardous Waste

The Department of Toxic Substances Control's Office of Criminal Investigations (OCI) played a crucial role in an investigation that led to CPI International, Inc. having to pay \$135,000 in civil penalties for illegal disposal and treatment of hazardous waste.

CPI, which manufactures laboratory supplies, was operating out of a residence in Santa Rosa. During a June 30, 2011, investigation, CPI employees were found collecting waste water in containers and storing it in unmarked tanks on a neighbor's property. The waste water was from a process of making paper filters for laboratory use.

The matter was settled in court on April 22, 2014 and DTSC was awarded \$38,000 to cover costs.

DTSC environmental scientists Dylan Clark, Taryn Stokell Buck and Gil Whipple, investigators Ed Doty, Kelly Parino and Gloria Gamino and computer forensic examiner Tamara Williams each participated in the case. All are members of OCI. Clark, Stokell Buck and Whipple were on hand for sampling of the waste while Doty, Parino, Gamino and Williams were involved in the execution of a search warrant at a different location on the same day.

Clark was the lead for DTSC and briefed DTSC's investigators on the matter. The Department of Fish and Wildlife were the lead on serving the search warrant at a residence in Sonoma County.

"I got some background on the case and found out what was needed from us. I organized the scientists and asked for help from Tamara (Williams) and Ed (Doty). OCI investigators were sent to help interview (CPI officials)," Clark said.

During inspections at CPI in March of 2011, Sonoma County Fire and Emergency Services and Rincon Valley Fire inspectors observed corrosive waste going directly to the sewer. The Sonoma County Water Agency had previously required that CPI install a pre-treatment system.

It was also discovered that CPI had failed to file a hazardous materials business plan to alert emergency personnel about the nature and location of its hazardous materials. When approached about the waste going into the sewer, CPI moved its operation to the residence in Santa Rosa. The Sonoma County District Attorney's office then filed a civil environmental enforcement case against CPI and two corporate officers.