

Ca LULAC Presentation to CA Water Board on Nexus between:

- Ca./SF Bay Area Waste Worker Fatalities
- Recent Audit/Hearing on Cal OSHA Deficiencies.
- Public Safety/Environmental/Water Quality impacts (including Fires & large-scale contamination incidents.

At least four Latino Waste Workers/Individuals killed on the job within jurisdiction of the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Board.

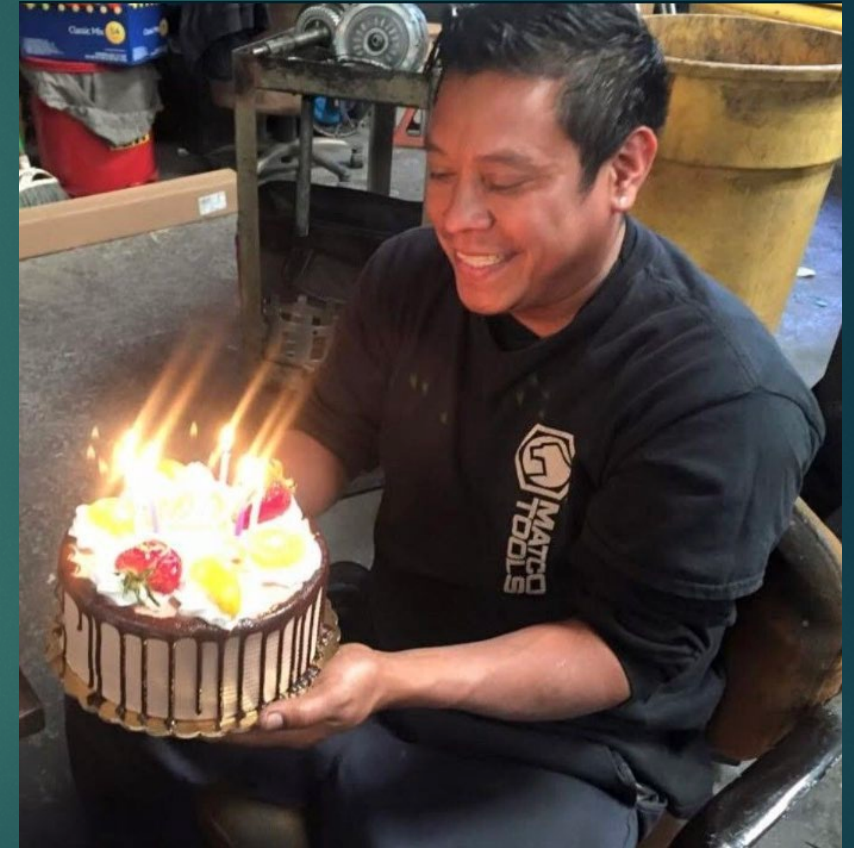
Luis Guerrero – ALCO worker died 1.2025. Alfredo Romero Jr. – Recology died in May 2025. Alberto Anaya – ALCO died 6.2017. Gabriel Diaz Cervantes – Upper Valley Disposal Service/Clover Flat Landfill died 3.2013.



ALCO San Leandro Facility Worker Killed on the job



Luis Fernando Guerrero Tlatenchi – ALCO San Leandro – 41 years old killed in January 2025. Mechanic Luis Guerrero died when a broken forklift fell on him.



Luis was set to start a new job with a different company the following week before he died.

Recology Brisbane Facility Worker Killed on the job

Alfredo Romero Jr
— Recology
mechanic - 61
years old killed in
May 2025.

Leaves behind a
devastated family
in Fremont, CA.



ALCO San Leandro Facility Worker Killed on the job

Alberto Anaya – 63 years old killed in June 2017.
Crushed to death by a large screw conveyor machine, it caught on a floor crack and collapsed on him.



Upper Valley Disposal/Clover Flat Landfill – St. Helena Facility Worker Killed on the job -2013

Gabriel Diaz Cervantes – 45 years old run over by garbage truck at UVDS in St. Helena. Cal OSHA report differed greatly from eye-witnesses/co-workers on the scene.



Latino Waste Worker fatalities are occurring in other California regions as well.

ALCO Stockton Facility Worker Killed on the job.

Ray Alfaro – ALCO Stockton – 31 years old killed in March 2022. Ray Alfaro was crushed to death by 4,000 lbs. of wire.



Bakersfield area Latino Waste/Compost

Workers dual fatalities in 2012 — Brothers Armando Ramirez, 16 years old, and Heladio Ramirez, 22 years old, perished inhaling hydrogen sulfide when working at the Community Recycling & Resource Recovery composting facility.

≡ KQED

Sign In

by William Harless, **California Watch**



This hole at the Community Recycling & Resource Recovery site leads to a drainage ditch where the Ramirez brothers were overcome by fumes. (Kern County Fire Dept)

California's next big step in recycling – composting its meat scraps, broken egg shells, coffee grounds and other detritus of eating – is straining the state's ability to effectively manage the ever-growing and sometimes dangerous industry.

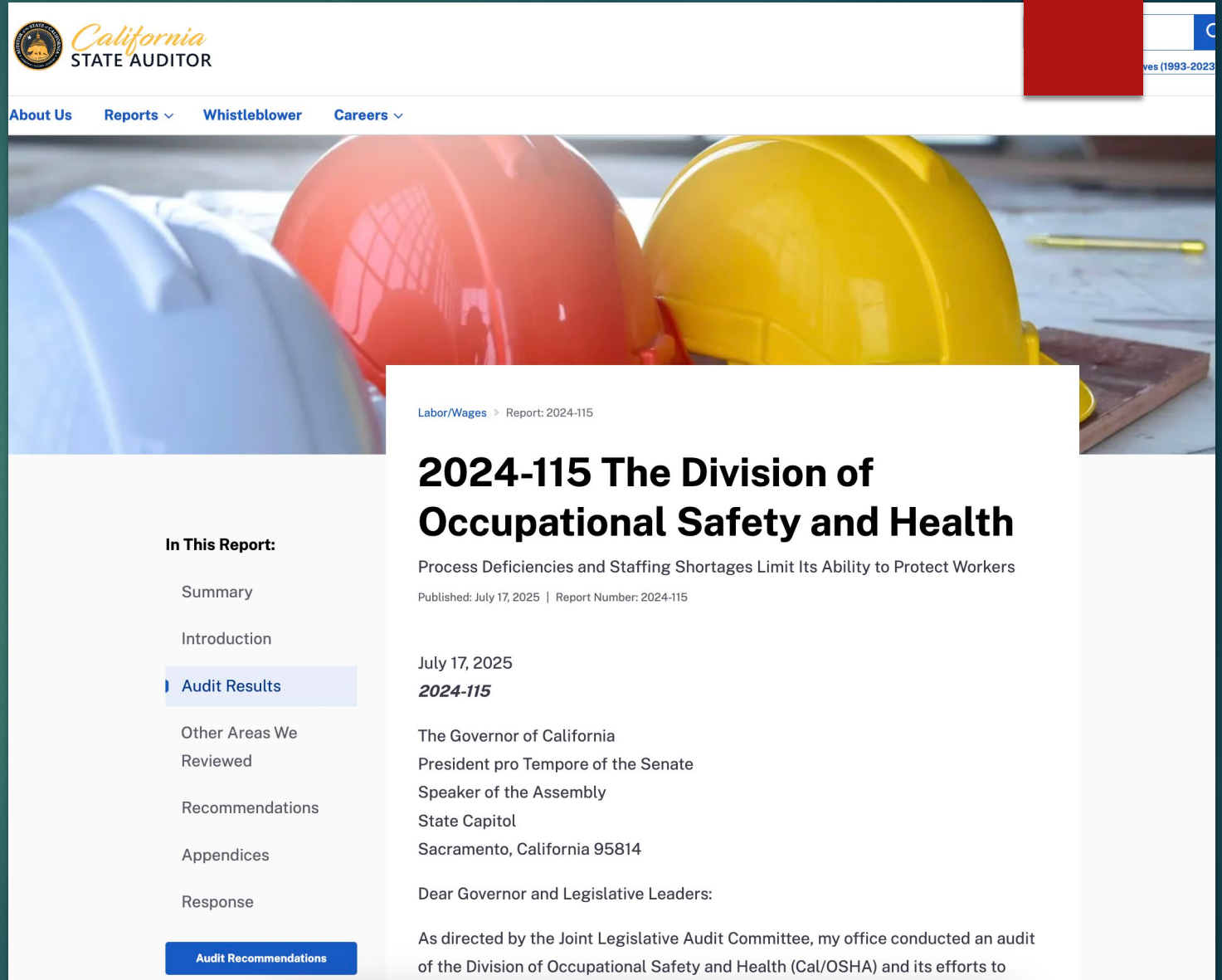
In October, 16-year-old Armando Ramirez and his brother, 22-year-old Heladio Ramirez, died of poisoning after Armando had been cleaning out a stormwater drain at the Community Recycling & Resource Recovery composting facility near Bakersfield. Heladio had gone down a hole and into the drain to rescue his brother.

The two undocumented workers inhaled hydrogen sulfide, a poisonous gas that sewage can generate. According to county documents, the facility near Lamont used discharged sewage water from an adjacent utility district to moisten its composting

piles.

2024 Cal OSHA Audit

- ▶ Findings: Significant deficiencies in Cal OSHA processes:
- ▶ – Weakness in inspections
– only 17% of valid complaints were inspected on site in 2024.
- ▶ - Problems in enforcement and fines.
- ▶ - Severe staffing shortages.



The screenshot displays the California State Auditor's website. The header includes the state seal and the text "California STATE AUDITOR". Navigation links for "About Us", "Reports", "Whistleblower", and "Careers" are visible. A large banner image shows three hard hats (blue, red, and yellow) on a workbench. The main content area features the report title "2024-115 The Division of Occupational Safety and Health" with the subtitle "Process Deficiencies and Staffing Shortages Limit Its Ability to Protect Workers". It also includes the publication date "July 17, 2025", the report number "2024-115", and the address of the Division of Occupational Safety and Health. A sidebar on the left lists the report's sections: "In This Report:", "Summary", "Introduction", "Audit Results" (highlighted), "Other Areas We Reviewed", "Recommendations", "Appendices", and "Response". A blue button labeled "Audit Recommendations" is at the bottom of the sidebar.

California
STATE AUDITOR

About Us Reports Whistleblower Careers

Labor/Wages Report: 2024-115

2024-115 The Division of Occupational Safety and Health

Process Deficiencies and Staffing Shortages Limit Its Ability to Protect Workers

Published: July 17, 2025 | Report Number: 2024-115

July 17, 2025
2024-115

The Governor of California
President pro Tempore of the Senate
Speaker of the Assembly
State Capitol
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Governor and Legislative Leaders:

As directed by the Joint Legislative Audit Committee, my office conducted an audit of the Division of Occupational Safety and Health (Cal/OSHA) and its efforts to

In This Report:

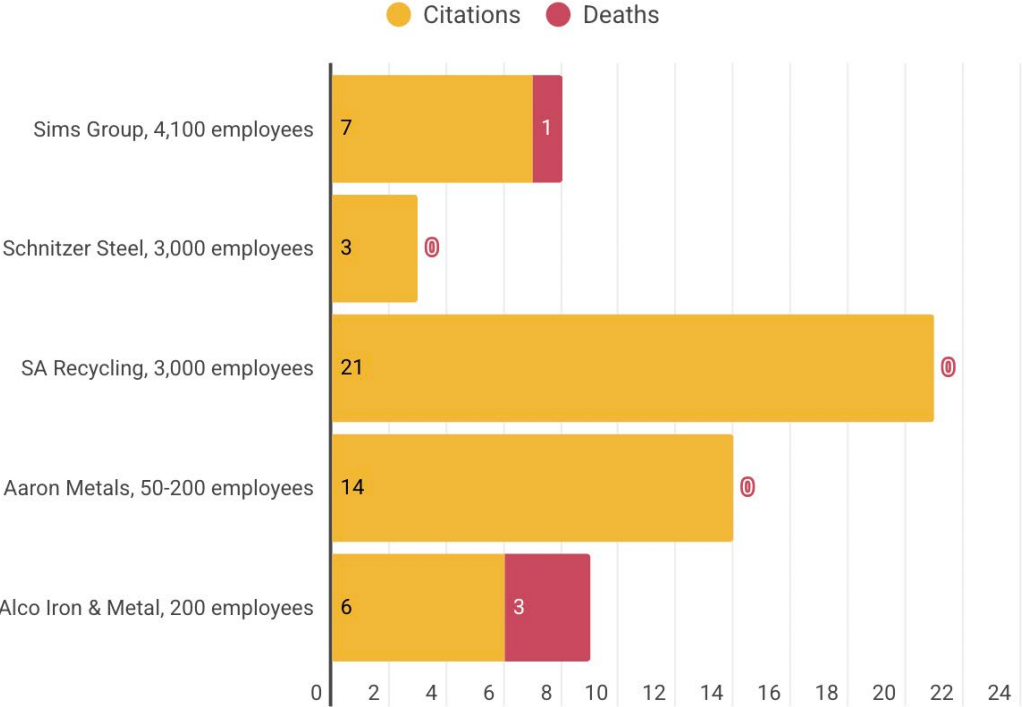
- Summary
- Introduction
- Audit Results**
- Other Areas We Reviewed
- Recommendations
- Appendices
- Response

Audit Recommendations

Comparing other metal recyclers

Deaths and citations

Here is a look at 5 California metal scrap recycling companies' death and citation records from 2015 to 2025, organized by company size. Alco, with 200 employees, has had three deaths in 10 years. Sims Group, with 4,000 employees, had 1.



Source: OSHA establishment search

ALCO Deaths and citations compared with other metal recyclers. ALCO had 3 deaths with 200 employees compared to Sims Group with 4,100 employees and 1 death. Other large scale metal recyclers had no deaths.

Following are photographs and documents of large-scale fires, contamination incidents, and violations at ALCO facilities, Recology Brisbane, and Upper Valley Disposal Service/Clover Flat Landfill in the the Napa Valley.



UVDS Napa County Waste and Compost Recycling site



All these facilities are in the jurisdiction of the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board and all with significant environmental, water quality and public safety impacts. These are just a small sample of the photographs and documents available that provide evidence of the systemic problems in the waste industry.



Recology Brisbane –2025 Fire

Recology Brisbane Fire - 2018



SKY7

NEW THIS MORNING

- FIRE AT BRISBANE RECYCLING CENTER AFFECTING AIR QUALITY



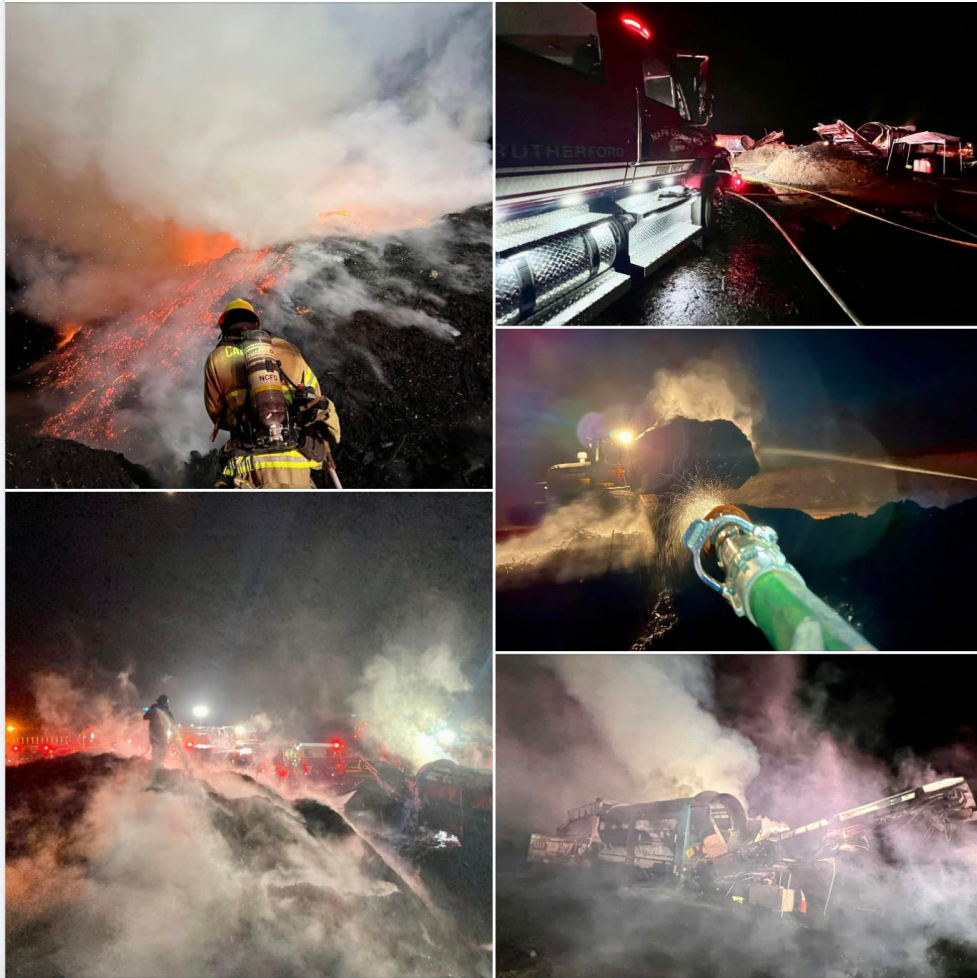


CAL FIRE Sonoma-Lake-Napa Unit

4h · 🌐

...

At about 12:40am this morning crews from Napa County Fire Department, St Helena Fire Department and Calistoga Fire Department were dispatched to a commercial structure fire at Upper Valley Disposal & Recycling in St Helena. Upon arrival crews reported that at Trummel Screener was fully involved with an extension to a compost pile. Crews extinguished the fire and worked with company rep. whom used front loader to separate the compost pile. No buildings were involved and there was no extension to the Wildland. We would like to thank @sthelenafire and @calistogafire for their assistance.



Upper Valley Disposal Service – Napa County Fire – Documented by CalFire in 2024

FIRES at Upper Valley Disposal Service - Whitehall Ln, St. Helena, Clover Flat Landfill - Calistoga and UVDS Garbage Truck Fires 2020 – 2022

These are just some of the fires at UVDS Whitehall Lane, Clover Flat Landfill and in UVDS collection trucks on rural Napa County roads. There are eyewitness accounts of many more fires at these sites.

June 14, 2020 - Fire at UVDS



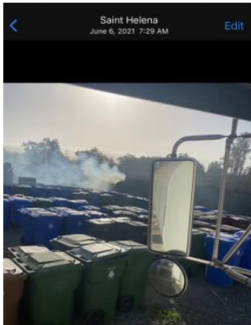
Nov. 18, 2020 – Greenfield Road: UVDS Garbage Truck Fire



Dec. 2020 Fire UVDS



June 6, 2021 - UVDS Fire



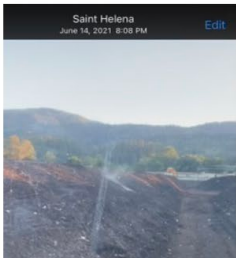
June 8, 2021 - UVDS Fire



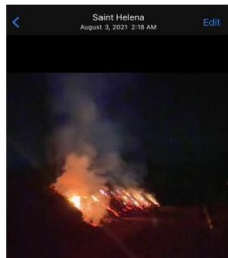
June 10, 2021 – UVDS Fire



June 14, 2021 – UVDS Fire



August 3, 2021 – UVDS Fire



June 14, 2022 – UVDS Fire



July 12, 2022 – UVDS Fire



Upper Valley Disposal Service & Clover Flat Landfill – Napa County Fires – 2020-2022.



UVDS Clover Flat Landfill - Napa County document showing severity of Glass Fire impacts in 2020 at Clover Flat Landfill despite company statements the landfill did not burn. The public was not warned or notified of the burning landfill.

From: Ex, Peter <PETER.EX@countyofnapa.org>
Sent: Monday, September 28, 2020 4:25:09 PM
To: Vincent, Michael (Shaun) <Michael.Vincent@countyofnapa.org>; Harrington, Stacey <STACEY.HARRINGTON@countyofnapa.org>; Henn, Jennifer <JENNIFER.HENN@countyofnapa.org>
Cc: Kara, John <John.Kara@countyofnapa.org>; Secheli, Christine <Christine.Secheli@countyofnapa.org>; Perez, Lynn <Lynn.Perez@countyofnapa.org>
Subject: Clover flat landfill emergency repairs

Hi Shaun,

I completed a damage assessment at clover flat landfill today. They have suffered extensive damage to their landfill gas collection and leachate collection systems. Currently landfill gas is burning uncontrolled from numerous damaged gas wells on the site and leachate collection pipes are non-existent but fortunately leachate is burning off instead of flowing downslope.

Would appreciate any guidance/coordination you can provide to get specialized crews access to the site sooner than later to get landfill gas under control?

Thanks,
Peter Ex

Sent with BlackBerry Work
(www.blackberry.com)

UVDS Clover Flat Landfill – Napa County

Toxic leachate/wastewater pit (left photo). Untrained waste workers forced to fight active wildfire and clean up toxic fire debris without training or personal protective equipment (PPE) in 2020.



Upper Valley Disposal Service – St. Helena / Napa County photos document toxic chemical spill and leachate pond along with garbage truck washing facility at site claimed by SF Regional Water Board as only processing organic material.



ALCO San Leandro & Vallejo –2025 & 2015 Fires



ALCO – Vallejo – 1990s – 17 violations of Lead Exposure to employees and their families



Timeline

A history of some of Alco Iron & Metal's deaths and injuries. Three men have died since 2017 and Cal-OSHA issued 64 citations since 1991.



January 2025

Mechanic Luis Guerrero died when a forklift fell on him.



March 2022

Ray Alfaro was crushed to death by 4,000 lbs. of wire.



June 2017

Alberto Anaya crushed to death by a large machine that collapsed.



2014

Cal-OSHA issues 2 serious citations after propane tank explodes.

2012

Cal-OSHA issues 6 citations after employee has 2 fingers amputated from an alligator shear.



2004

Cal-OSHA issues 3 citations after employee injured in Vallejo with overhead crane.



1990s

Cal-OSHA issues 17 violations resulting from lead exposure to employees and their families.

Source: OSHA establishment search.

Share

made with infogram

ALCO Timeline

- Showing ALCO fatalities from 2017-2022
- Safety violations stretching back decades including:
 - A crane accident
 - Propane tank explosion
 - An employee having 2 fingers amputated from an alligator shear.



March 27, 2015

DMS NOTICE
W - 15 - 01
DISCARD: RETAIN

TO: WEIGHTS AND MEASURES OFFICIALS

SUBJECT: Settlement – Alco Iron & Metal Company, a California Corporation

Enclosed is a copy of the Stipulated Final Judgment and Permanent Injunction issued against Alco Iron & Metal Company, a California Corporation. The case was filed on March 4, 2015, by the Alameda County District Attorney's Office for knowingly issuing a false weight, measure, or count on a weighmaster certificate; issuing weighmaster certificates that do not contain all of the information required by law; and, failing to maintain a commercial device that is used for measuring weight, measure or count in accordance with device requirements in violation of California Business and Professions Code Sections 12107, 12713, 12714, 12714.5, 12715, and, 12718.

The California Department of Food and Agriculture, Division of Measurement Standards (Department) worked with weights and measures investigators from Alameda County on this case. The total settlement was for \$750,000. Civil penalties amounted to \$350,000, agency costs were \$350,000, and a \$50,000 one-time credit to the defendant to partially offset expenses incurred to institute compliance measures to correct and prevent future violations.

Alameda County should be sure to report these penalties and separately record their individual investigative cost reimbursements in the appropriate columns of the County Monthly Report.

The Department appreciates the fine work done by the Alameda County District Attorney's Office along with the state and county investigators that documented and caused to be prosecuted these violations. If you have any questions, please contact Katherine de Contreras, Supervising Special Investigator, Enforcement Branch at (916) 229-3047, or katherine.decontreras@cdfa.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Kristin J. Macey
Director

Enclosure

cc: Gary Leslie, County/State Liaison, CDFA



Alameda District
Attorney civil
settlement of
\$750,000 against Alco
Iron & Metal Company
in 2015.

Recology Brisbane Fines

► Total penalties
since 2000 is
\$144,144,555.

GOOD
JOBS
FIRST

VIOLATION

TRACKER

Quick Start

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Violation Tracker Current Parent Company Summary

Current Parent Company Name: Recology

Ownership Structure: privately held

Headquartered in: California

Major Industry: waste management and environmental services

Specific Industry: recycling

Penalty total since 2000 for companies currently owned: \$144,144,555

Number of records: 12

TOP 5 OFFENSE GROUPS (GROUPS DEFINED)		PENALTY TOTAL
consumer-protection-related offenses		\$107,600,000
competition-related offenses		\$36,000,000
environment-related offenses		\$473,640
safety-related offenses		\$70,915

TOP 5 PRIMARY OFFENSE TYPES		PENALTY TOTAL
consumer protection violation		\$107,600,000
kickbacks and bribery		\$36,000,000
water pollution violation		\$462,440
workplace safety or health violation		\$70,915
hazardous waste violation		\$5,600

Notes: Parent-subsidiary linkages are based on relationships current as of the latest revision listed in the [Update Log](#), which may vary from what was the case when a v adjusted to account for the fact that the individual entries below may include both agency records and settlement announcements for the same case; or else a penalty d individual records for each of the facilities. The totals are also adjusted to reflect cases in which federal and state or local agencies cooperated and issued separate ann overlapping penalty amounts are marked with an asterisk in the list below.

Upper Valley Disposal/Clover Flat Landfill Radiation Incident

2019 employee quite
ill from radiation
exposure, might need
to be sent out of
state for treatment.

We have one employee that was quite ill from the radiation and four other employees that are being tested due to mild contact. The one employee might be sent out of state to a radiation clinic for treatment.

Mr. Calhoun can advise you on any questions you may have.

W. DOUGLAS CALHOUN
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SUPERVISOR
COUNTY OF NAPA PLANNING, BUILDING, & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES DEPT
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DIVISION - CUPA
1195 THIRD ST., SUITE 210, NAPA, CA 94559
(P) 707.253.4839 (F) 707.299.4239
WWW.COUNTYOFNAPA.ORG



Kaye Woodworth
Compliance/Safety Coordinator
Clover Flat Resource & Recovery Park
Cellular (707) 337-9135



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Main: (707) 253-4211
Fax: (707) 253-4041
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ALLISON HALEY
District Attorney

For Immediate Release
September 12, 2025
Media Contact:
[Carlos Villatoro](mailto:Carlos.Villatoro@napa.ca.gov), (707) 299-1409

PRESS RELEASE
Napa County District Attorney
Settles Civil Lawsuit Against Clover Flat Landfill for 2019 Leachate Spill

Napa County District Attorney Allison Haley announced today that her office settled a civil law enforcement lawsuit against defendants Vista Corporation and Clover Flat Land Fill Inc., the owners and operators of Clover Flat Landfill.

The case stems from an investigation by the Department of Fish and Wildlife into Clover Flat's March 2019 spill of 40,000 gallons of leachate into nearby streams, which are tributaries of the Napa River. Leachate is a liquid containing soluble dissolved or suspended materials generated from rainwater and moisture percolating through the waste in a landfill. Releasing leachate into a stream can have a substantial detrimental impact on water quality and aquatic life. The initial investigation led to findings of other environmental violations, including the excavation of a road through what had been a stream, as well as the unauthorized removal of trees and other vegetation.

The action was filed in Napa County Superior Court. As part of the settlement, the defendants have agreed to restore 4.24 acres of habitat in and around the landfill. They must remove the unauthorized road, re-establish the natural streams, and engage in extensive replanting of vegetation. The estimated cost of on-site restoration is approximately \$4 million. In addition, the defendants agreed to pay \$2.654 million toward the funding of other Napa County environmental restoration projects, including:

- \$1.55 million to the Napa County Flood Control and Water Conservation District to be used for the Bale Slough-Bear Creek Tributary Restoration Project.
- \$954,000 to the Napa County Resource Conservation District ("RCD") toward the Huichica Creek Restoration Project.
- An additional \$150,000 to RCD is to be used for either Huichica Creek or the Suscol Creek Restoration Project.

The defendants agreed to strong injunctive terms, which will prohibit them from causing, allowing, or failing to prevent the discharge of any pollutant into the nearby streams. They

Upper Valley Disposal/Clover Flat Landfill settlement in 2025 with Napa County District Attorney for \$6.6 MIL related to large scale contamination incident.



Metal recycling is one of the most hazardous sectors in the country, according to the [U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics](#). Of the 5,283 workplace deaths reported by the agency in 2023, 484 were in waste management and remediation services, which includes scrap metal recycling.

- SF GATE | Bay Area mechanic crushed by forklift in 3rd death tied to same scrap metal company | Olivia Hebert | 5.1.2025

Chiquita Canyon Landfill – Southern California



The Waste Industry problems stretch statewide. In Southern California, The Chiquita Canyon landfill has had significant problematic issues promoting dozens of violations and numerous lawsuits including from the County of Los Angeles.

Though we have seen no reported fatalities at Chiquita Canyon the company that owns Chiquita Canyon now owns Upper Valley Disposal Service/Clover Flat Landfill in Napa County where there was a worker fatality in 2013, as well as numerous fires and large-scale contamination incidents.



2023–2025

RACIAL EQUITY ACTION PLAN

2024 ANNUAL UPDATE

The California State Water Board has many tools to address these concerns including CA laws like the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act, the Water Board’s Racial Equity Action Plan, and the Water Board’s mission statement that includes the language “...the protection of the environment, public health, and all beneficial uses...” as well as making referrals to other public agencies.

Mission Statement

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 water resource allocation and efficient use, for the benefit of present and future generations.



Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act

Water Code Division 7 and Related Sections
(As amended, including Statutes 2024)



FEBRUARY 2025

CALIFORNIA STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD