Subcommittee on gas and Electric Infrastructure Safety Excavation Damage: A Safety Threat or Cost of Doing Business?

Tuesday, June 4th, 2013 State Capitol, Room 3191 9:30 am

Cynthia Moore,

Enforcement Supervisor,

Contractors State License Board

CSLB licenses over 300,000 contractors throughout the State of California.

We are empowered to take administrative action against any contractor who fails to call USA/Dig Alert prior to excavating.

We also strive to educate contractors. We have issued two recent Industry Bulletins about USA/Dig Alert. One is coming out in June.

We are fully committed to investigating and taking action against licensees who excavate without FIRST calling USA/Dig Alert **however**, we received only 13 referrals in the last two years, statewide.

A first offense is punishable with an administrative citation that has a maximum civil penalty of 5,000.00 and we also have the ability to order correction to the injured party as part of the citation.

Repeat offenders can face license revocation.

We would like cases reported to us as soon as the utility company becomes aware of a violation.

What is important to note is that our ability to enforce comes down to evidence:

The responsible party(s) must be identified

We need proof that no call was made prior to excavating.

Employee from Utility must be available to testify.