

Protecting Your Interests

Your Liability. To limit liability for you and your client, you should have a qualified environmental professional assess property before transfers, urban redevelopment “brownfields” projects, or for property environmental testing or site cleanup.

Your Dilemma. You should select a capable professional with verified qualifications. The Registered Environmental Assessor (REA) Program can help you find an environmental professional registered by the State who can perform your environmental work.

Working For You. The REA program is a State resource to assist you in finding licensed environmental professionals as you contract for environmental services. We maintain a directory of qualified REA registrants with contact information for professionals in your area.

No Cost. The REA staff will conduct a registry search and provide you a listing of the registrants in your area. In addition, the REA program Web site offers a searchable listing of registrants at www.rea.ca.gov.

Additional Assistance. Our staff can also respond to your questions regarding the status of an REA’s registration, areas of expertise, or complaints against an REA.

The Registered Environmental Assessor is registered by DTSC to conduct and direct site mitigation and investigation activities at hazardous waste and hazardous substance release sites.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

We maintain records on all assessors in your region. For a list of Registered Environmental Assessors, contact us at:

REA Hotline
916-255-4699

Or visit

www.dtsc.ca.gov/real

Department of Toxic Substances Control
Registered Environmental
Assessor Program
P.O. Box 806
Sacramento, California 95812-0806
Phone (916) 255-4699
Fax (916) 255-6427



Printed on Recycled Paper

The Registered Environmental Assessor(REA)

WORKING FOR YOU!



California
Environmental
Protection Agency



Department of
Toxic Substances
Control

Why Do I Need An Environmental Assessment?

Failure to perform adequate or appropriate environmental assessment may endanger your client and subject you to major liability. The “innocent landowner” defense under State and federal Superfund laws requires that the purchaser perform an assessment using “all appropriate inquiry into the previous ownership and uses of the property consistent with good commercial or customary practices...” (42 U.S.C. § 9601(35)(B)).

An environmental assessment offers valuable assistance during real estate transactions. An environmental assessment prior to purchase can identify for all parties the likelihood that hazardous materials, substances or wastes may have been used on, or may have contaminated, a property. A site assessment and Phase I Assessment Report will provide all parties with documentation of due diligence and disclosure.

Without proper due diligence, you and your clients may be subject to liability. Due diligence is of particular concern with brownfields and other urban renewal projects. These projects present great potential for uncovering environmental problems that an environmental assessment may discover prior to property transfer.

Why Use A Registered Environmental Assessor?

Paraphrasing residential real estate’s mantra, the environmental assessment mantra is: “liability, liability, liability.”

The environmental consulting arena in California is populated by many consultants, engineers, geologists and other professionals all providing various services. Many possess the knowledge and experience to protect you and your clients from environmental liability. However, some may not.

The state has evaluated the experience and credentials of each Registered Environmental Assessor applicant and verified that he or she is qualified to conduct environmental assessments. More than 4,000 professionals are currently registered and more become qualified all the time. This means that there is a registered environmental assessor close to you.

California strives to maintain the standard of work quality and professional conduct of the REAs by monitoring and evaluating an REA’s work products. Complaints against an REA can be lodged with our office. REA Program staff will investigate any complaint to determine whether the REA has failed to comply with the State regulations or standard industry practices.

Registration Categories

All REAs must have significant experience performing environmental assessments, testing, and hazardous site remediation. Each application for REA registration is individually evaluated to ensure that the applicant possesses the required education and appropriate experience.

REA I

The REA I is the basic level of registration. This person has possesses the education and experience to perform the fundamental site inspections of residential or commercial properties (Phase I environmental site assessment). The REA I may also prepare waste reduction plans and other evaluations and assessments.

REA II

These individuals have completed all the requirements for the most stringent level of environmental registration provided by the State. The REA II is a project manager who can conduct all assessments and investigations performed by the REA I, plus issue cleanup opinions, evaluate risk from contamination and manage the cleanup of contaminated sites. REA IIs are required to have significantly greater experience than the REA I registrants, must provide detailed project examples, and must provide a lead regulatory agency reference for registration.