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HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE - HSC

DIVISION 45. HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCE RESPONSE [78000 - 81050] (*Division 45 added by Stats. 2022, Ch. 257, Sec. 2.*)

PART 2. HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCE ACCOUNT [78000 - 81050] (*Part 2 added by Stats. 2022, Ch. 257, Sec. 2.*)

CHAPTER 5. Cleanup of Hazardous Substance Releases [78850 - 79400] (*Chapter 5 added by Stats. 2022, Ch. 257, Sec. 2.*)

ARTICLE 2. Rules for Specified Circumstances [78870 - 78885] (*Article 2 added by Stats. 2022, Ch. 257, Sec. 2.*)

78870. Whenever the director determines that there may be an imminent or substantial endangerment to the public health or welfare or to the environment, because of a release or a threatened release of a hazardous substance, the director may do any or all of the following:

- (a) Order any responsible party to take or pay for appropriate removal or remedial action necessary to protect the public health and safety and the environment. No order under this section shall be made to an owner of real property solely on the basis of that ownership as specified in Sections 101(35) and 107(b) of the federal act (42 U.S.C. Secs. 9601(35) and 9607(b)). The director shall give the responsible party an opportunity to assert all defenses to the order.
- (b) Take or contract for any necessary removal or remedial action.
- (c) Request the Attorney General to secure relief as may be necessary from the responsible party to abate the danger or threat. The superior court of the county in which the threat or danger occurs shall have jurisdiction to grant the relief the public interest and equities of the case may require to protect public health and welfare and the environment. Upon a showing by the department that a release or threatened release of a hazardous substance has occurred or is occurring, and that there may be an imminent or substantial endangerment to the public health and safety or to the environment, the court may grant a temporary restraining order or a preliminary or permanent injunction pursuant to subdivision (a) of Section 78660.

(*Added by Stats. 2022, Ch. 257, Sec. 2. (AB 2293) Effective January 1, 2023. Operative January 1, 2024, pursuant to Sec. 4 of Stats. 2022, Ch. 257.*)

78875. (a) The department shall expend moneys available in the reserve account, established pursuant to subdivision (a) of Section 78240, only for the purpose of taking immediate corrective action necessary to remedy or prevent an emergency resulting from a fire or an explosion of, or human exposure to, hazardous substances caused by the release or threatened release of a hazardous substance.

(b) (1) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the department may enter into written contracts for corrective action taken or to be taken pursuant to subdivision (a).

(2) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the department may enter into oral contracts, not to exceed ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) in obligation, when, in the judgment of the department, immediate corrective action is necessary to remedy or prevent an emergency specified in subdivision (a).

(3) The contracts made pursuant to this subdivision, whether written or oral, may include provisions for the rental of tools or equipment, either with or without operators furnished, and for the furnishing of labor and materials necessary to accomplish the work.

(4) If the department finds that the corrective action includes the relocation of individuals, the department may contract with those individuals for out-of-pocket expenses incurred in moving for an amount of not more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000).

(*Added by Stats. 2022, Ch. 257, Sec. 2. (AB 2293) Effective January 1, 2023. Operative January 1, 2024, pursuant to Sec. 4 of Stats. 2022, Ch. 257.*)

78880. Any removal or remedial action taken or contracted by the department pursuant to Section 78870 or 78875 shall be exempt from all of the following provisions:

- (a) State Contract Act (Chapter 1 (commencing with Section 10100) of Part 2 of Division 2 of the Public Contract Code).
- (b) Chapter 10 (commencing with Section 4525) of Division 5 of Title 1 of the Government Code.
- (c) Section 10295 of the Public Contract Code.
- (d) Article 4 (commencing with Section 10335) of Chapter 2 of Part 2 of Division 2 of the Public Contract Code.

(Added by Stats. 2022, Ch. 257, Sec. 2. (AB 2293) Effective January 1, 2023. Operative January 1, 2024, pursuant to Sec. 4 of Stats. 2022, Ch. 257.)

78885. (a) The department may prequalify bidders for remedial or removal actions taken pursuant to Section 78870 or 78875. The department may reject the bid of any prospective bidder that has not been prequalified.

(b) To prequalify bidders, the department shall adopt and apply a uniform system of rating bidders. In order to obtain information for that rating, the department may require from prospective bidders answers to questions, including, but not limited to, questions about the bidder's financial ability, the bidder's experience in removal and remedial action involving hazardous substances, the bidder's past safety record, and the bidder's past performance on federal, state, or local government projects. The department may also require prospective bidders to submit financial statements.

(c) The department shall utilize the business financial data and information submitted by a bidder pursuant to subdivision (b) only for the purposes of prequalifying bidders pursuant to this section and shall not otherwise disseminate this data or information.

(d) The system of rating bidders may be adopted by the department as emergency regulations in accordance with Chapter 3.5 (commencing with Section 11340) of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code, and for purposes of that chapter, when these regulations are adopted as emergency regulations pursuant to Section 11349.6 of the Government Code, the regulations shall be deemed to be necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety, and general welfare. It is the intent of the Legislature that emergency regulations adopted pursuant to this subdivision shall remain in effect until the regulations are adopted as final regulations, pursuant to Chapter 3.5 (commencing with Section 11340) of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code.

(Added by Stats. 2022, Ch. 257, Sec. 2. (AB 2293) Effective January 1, 2023. Operative January 1, 2024, pursuant to Sec. 4 of Stats. 2022, Ch. 257.)