



Riverside County District Attorney

NEWS RELEASE

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ALBERTSONS ORDERED TO PAY \$3.3 MILLION SETTLEMENT IN LAWSUIT CHARGING ILLEGAL DISPOSAL AND MISMANAGEMENT OF HAZARDOUS WASTE

RIVERSIDE – A judge has ordered Albertsons, LLC, to pay \$3.3 million in the settlement of a lawsuit charging illegal disposal, transportation, storage, and mismanagement of hazardous waste. The settlement was filed in Orange County Superior Court and served to Albertsons today, June 24, 2014.

The settlement is the culmination of a civil enforcement action on behalf of the District Attorney's Offices in Riverside, Orange, San Bernardino, San Diego, and Ventura counties as well as the Los Angeles City Attorney's Office.

"What we are trying to achieve in lawsuits such as this is for the companies or corporations involved to comply with the laws as they pertain to the management, storage, handling, and transportation of their hazardous waste," said Riverside County District Attorney Paul Zellerbach. "We also want these cases to level the playing field so one business does not have an unfair or illegal economic advantage over their competitors."

Albertsons has 188 retail stores and two distribution centers currently operating in California. The settlement pertains to all operations in California and includes 18 currently operating stores and 12 closed facilities in Riverside County. In this settlement, Riverside County will receive more than \$437,000 in costs and penalties.

The lawsuit alleges that Albertsons violated state hazardous waste law by unlawfully transporting and disposing of hazardous waste as well as failing to properly manage that hazardous waste at its California facilities. The hazardous waste generated at each Albertsons facility included -- but was not limited to -- over-the-counter medications, pharmaceuticals, aerosol products, ignitable liquids, batteries, electronic devices, pool chemicals, and other products containing hazardous materials.

During the investigation it was found that Albertsons routinely and illegally disposed of hazardous waste in dumpsters or transported hazardous waste to a third-party processor not certified to handle hazardous waste.

Albertsons has not admitted fault or liability. In addition to the settlement costs, the terms of the settlement require Albertsons pay additional substantial costs for developing and enforcing compliance efforts including permanent computerized hazardous waste classification systems, dumpster audits, employee training, and progress reports to the participating prosecutorial agencies for five years.

In Riverside County, the case was handled by Deputy District Attorney Tiffany Nelson.