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JUDGE ORDERS O'REILLY AUTO PARTS TO PAY \$9.87 MILLION SETTLEMENT

RIVERSIDE – Today, Dec. 1, 2016, Riverside County DA Mike Hestrin, along with 50 other county District Attorneys, announced that Missouri-based O'Reilly Auto Parts has been ordered by a judge to pay \$9.87 million as part of a settlement of a civil environmental prosecution.

The judgment against O'Reilly Auto Enterprises, LLC; O'Reilly Automotive, Inc.; O'Reilly Automotive Stores, Inc.; and Ozark Automotive Distributors, Inc., is the culmination of a civil enforcement lawsuit filed in Alameda County. The lawsuit, led by the District Attorneys of Riverside, Alameda, Yolo, Ventura, San Joaquin, San Francisco, Monterey, San Diego and Solano counties, claims that more than 525 O'Reilly stores throughout the state unlawfully handled, transported and disposed of used oil, used oil filters, and various hazardous wastes and materials over a five-year period. Those hazardous wastes and materials included automotive fluids, batteries, electronic waste, aerosol cans and other toxic, ignitable, and corrosive hazardous wastes.

“Cases such as this are crucial in maintaining the safety of the public and our environment,” DA Hestrin said. “The Riverside County Department of Environmental Health was instrumental in discovering the issues found here and in bringing O'Reilly into compliance.”

In Riverside County, not only was oil being improperly disposed of but also hazardous wastes were being sent back to an O'Reilly distribution center in Moreno Valley from various Southern California stores. O'Reilly has 31 stores and the one distribution center in Riverside County.

During 2013 and 2014, a series of undercover inspections of waste bins originating at O'Reilly stores were conducted. The inspections revealed that O'Reilly was routinely and systematically sending used oil, used oil filters, and hazardous wastes to local landfills throughout California that were not permitted to receive those wastes. The statewide waste inspections revealed that 42 out of the 43 O'Reilly stores inspected and both O'Reilly distribution centers were in violation of state law.

Under the final judgment, O'Reilly must pay \$6.5 million in civil penalties and costs. An additional \$1.52 million will fund supplemental environmental projects furthering consumer protection and environmental enforcement in California, and O'Reilly will fund hazardous waste minimization and enhanced compliance projects valued at \$1.85 million. The Riverside County DA's Office will receive \$503,000 in fines and the Riverside County Dept. of Environmental Health will receive \$108,000. Those funds will be used for future such investigations and prosecutions. The retailer will be bound under the terms of a permanent injunction prohibiting similar future violations of law. O'Reilly was cooperative throughout the investigation and has adopted enhanced policies and procedures designed to eliminate the disposal of used oil, used oil filters and hazardous waste products in California. Stores are required to properly manage used oil and automotive oil filters, and to retain their hazardous waste in segregated, labeled containers so as to minimize the risk of exposure to employees and customers and to ensure that incompatible wastes do not combine to cause dangerous chemical reactions. Hazardous waste produced by California O'Reilly stores through damage, spills and returns is being collected by state-registered haulers, taken to proper disposal facilities and properly documented and accounted for.

The order was signed Nov. 30, 2016, by Alameda County Superior Court Judge Brad Seligman.

In Riverside County, the case was handled by Deputy DA Dale Hoy of the DA's Environmental Protection Team.