



Riverside County District Attorney
NEWS RELEASE

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\$27 MILLION SETTLEMENT REACHED WITH WALMART OVER ENVIRONMENTAL VIOLATIONS

RIVERSIDE, CA: Today, Riverside County District Attorney Rod Pacheco, along with California Attorney General Jerry Brown and 18 other California District Attorneys announced they have reached a \$27.6 million settlement with Walmart Stores Inc. for various violations of environmental laws and regulations.

“Riverside County is a beautiful place to live and work,” said District Attorney Rod Pacheco. “It is important to protect the quality of our groundwater by enforcing environmental law designed to keep it clean and safe.”

In August 2005, inspectors at the Robert Nelson Transfer Station in the city of Riverside discovered bags of pesticide at the bottom of a load of trash that came from a Walmart in Rialto. Riverside County District Attorney investigators were called to the scene and began an investigation into Walmart’s environmental violations.

During the course of the investigation, the Riverside County District Attorney’s Office inquired with other District Attorney’s Offices in the State of California to see if they were experiencing similar violations in their counties. Upon learning of other active investigations into Walmart across the state, the Attorney General was contacted and a collaboration between the Attorney General and each District Attorney was established.

On April 2, 2010, the Riverside County District Attorney, the Attorney General, and the 18 other DA’s offices filed a civil complaint stating that each of the 236 Walmart stores, Sam’s Club stores, distribution centers and storage facilities in California were in violation of environmental law and regulations. Walmart employees and management were improperly storing, handling, transporting and dumping hazardous waste, including pesticides, chemicals, paint, aerosols, acid, fertilizer and motor oil.

As part of the settlement, Walmart has instituted policies and procedures throughout their company in California to assure that environmental law and regulations are followed. There are 22 Walmart stores in Riverside County.

The Riverside County District Attorney’s Office is being represented by Supervising Deputy District Attorney Stephanie Weissman. The case, 37-2010-00089145-CU-TT-CTL, was filed in San Diego County Superior Court.

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