



BUTTE COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY



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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
April 16, 2012

District Attorney Mike Ramsey announced today that his office, together with 43 other California District Attorneys and the City Attorneys in San Diego and Los Angeles, settled a civil law enforcement action against CVS Pharmacy, Inc., headquartered in Woonsocket, Rhode Island. The lawsuit had been filed in the Ventura County Superior Court. The settlement resolves allegations that CVS violated California laws for the safe storage, handling and disposal of sharps waste, pharmaceutical and pharmacy waste, photo waste containing silver, and hazardous waste generated from spills and customer returns of hazardous products.

The statewide California investigation began after discovery of an investigation of CVS by environmental enforcement officials with the State of Connecticut. At the same time, inspectors with the Butte County Public Health's Environmental Health Division conducted multiple compliance reviews at local CVS stores and found evidence of improper storage, handling and disposal of hazardous waste and pharmaceutical waste products. Butte County District Attorney prosecutors teamed up with the local health department inspectors, as well as the California Department of Toxic Substances Control and other district attorney investigators from around the State, and worked cooperatively to address findings of statewide violations of law at CVS stores. As a result of the investigation and prosecution, regulated wastes produced by California CVS stores must now be properly stored, handled and transported, and disposed of at proper facilities with appropriate records kept documenting compliance with lawful procedures.

The alleged violations occurred over a seven-year period at hundreds of California CVS stores, pharmacies and distribution stores, including Long's Drug Stores that CVS acquired and converted to its brand. CVS currently operates 7 stores in Butte County.

Under the Final Judgment signed in Ventura County Superior Court yesterday, CVS must pay \$13.75 million in civil penalties, costs and for supplemental environmental projects furthering consumer protection and environmental enforcement in the State, and will be bound under the terms of a permanent injunction prohibiting similar future alleged violations of law. CVS is ordered to pay \$21,000 in civil penalties and cost recovery to the Butte County Environmental Health Division, and \$25,750 in civil penalties and cost recovery to the Butte County District Attorney's Office.