

***\*NEWS RELEASE\****

**PETROLEUM COMPANIES ORDERED TO PAY THREE MILLION DOLLARS IN CIVIL PENALTIES FOR ENVIRONMENTAL VIOLATIONS RELATING TO UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANKS**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONTACT: James Burlison, Deputy District Attorney  
(831) 647-7713

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Monterey County District Attorney Dean D. Flippo announced today that the Contra Costa Superior Court has ordered Golden Gate Petroleum Co., Bay Area/Diablo Petroleum Company and Westgate Petroleum Company, Inc. to pay three million dollars in civil penalties related to the operation of underground storage tanks and management of hazardous materials and wastes. The order was issued on March 13, 2017 following a contested hearing which took place on February 9, 2017. The action was brought in the name of the People of the State of California by the California Attorney General and the District Attorneys of Monterey, Alameda, Santa Clara, Sonoma, Humboldt, Lake, and Mendocino counties.

The People had previously brought a lawsuit and obtained a judgment against the Defendants in 2011 for an injunction and six million dollars in civil penalties, of which three million dollars in civil penalties were suspended conditioned on the Defendants strict compliance with the injunction. However, the Defendants committed violations of the injunction at ten different locations, including the Golden Gate Petroleum facility located on San Juan Road in Monterey County. As a result the Monterey County District Attorney's Office joined with the other offices in bringing this action to have the previously suspended three million dollars in penalties assessed against the companies.

The District Attorney's Office brings actions such as these to protect public health and safety and to ensure that businesses comply with their legal responsibilities to safeguard the environment.