



COUNTY OF YOLO

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Yolo County Environmental Health Participates in Statewide Prosecution of Target Corp. for Hazardous Waste Violations

(Woodland, CA) – After a six year, statewide investigation effort for hazardous waste disposal violations at Target Corporation’s California stores and distribution centers, Target Corp. has settled with prosecutors and environmental regulators for \$22.5 million.

Target Corp. has over 270 stores and five distribution centers in California. All of these facilities generate hazardous wastes that are created when consumer products containing chemicals are defective, broken/leaking in the store or in transport, are discontinued, or are returned by customers. These consumer products contain pesticides, paint, aerosols, oven cleaners, pool chemicals, drain openers and other flammable, toxic and corrosive materials that must be managed as hazardous waste in accordance with state law and regulation.

Yolo County Environmental Health is the Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA) for Yolo County, and is responsible for inspecting hazardous waste generators for compliance with state laws and regulations implemented to protect the public and the environment from improper handling and disposal of these wastes. In this role, the Yolo County CUPA, working with the Yolo County District Attorney Consumer Fraud and Environmental Unit, assisted other CUPAs and California District Attorneys, the Office of the Attorney General and city attorneys in conducting inspections and gathering evidence for this case.

“The successful prosecution and subsequent settlement of this case was made possible by the outstanding cooperation between our Environmental Health division and District Attorney’s office, and between the CUPAs and prosecuting agencies statewide,” said Yolo County Board of Supervisors Chair Matt Rexroad.

As part of the settlement, Target Corporation will be required to fully comply with California’s Hazardous Waste Control law and hazardous waste regulations. Additionally, they must improve hazardous waste handling procedures and employee training at Target facilities, and retain a third party consultant to audit their environmental compliance programs. Target Corp. must also provide funding to be used for training of environmental inspectors and prosecutors, and pay penalties and costs to the participating agencies already mentioned.

Yolo County Environmental Health will be reimbursed \$25,000 in costs incurred as part of the investigation, and will receive \$42,500 in civil penalties.

“The penalties will be used to support training programs, purchase needed equipment and to fund activities associated with future environmental investigations,” said Leslie Lindbo, Yolo County Director of Environmental Health.

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