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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Target Corporation to Pay \$22.5 Million Settlement
for Environmental Violations**

*Company Illegally Dumped Pesticides and Hazardous Chemicals in Yolo
County Target Stores*

(Woodland, CA) – March 3, 2011 – Yolo County District Attorney Jeff Reisig announced today that his Consumer Fraud and Environmental Unit obtained the largest environmental settlement against a single corporation in Yolo County history.

Two years ago a statewide prosecution team consisting of the Yolo County District Attorney and 20 other California District Attorneys, the state Attorney General and City Attorneys, filed suit claiming that more than 270 Target stores and distribution centers throughout the state handled and disposed of various hazardous wastes improperly over a five-year period. The hazardous wastes at issue included, pesticides, paint, aerosols, oven cleaners, pool chemicals, drain openers and other flammable, toxic and corrosive materials.

Prosecutors also alleged that Target failed to develop and implement an effective program to ensure that employees properly identified and disposed of defective, damaged and leaking products containing hazardous and toxic chemicals and that Target routinely ignored those laws to cut costs.

As a result of the prosecution, California Target stores agreed to pay \$22.5 million to the state prosecution team. Additionally, Target has adopted new policies and procedures designed to eliminate the disposal of hazardous waste products into compactors to minimize the risk of exposure to employees and customers and ensure that incompatible wastes (like ammonia and chlorine) do not combine to cause dangerous chemical reactions.

Yolo County District Attorney Jeff Reisig emphasized the unique nature of these crimes. “Environmental crimes are unusual in that they impact every Yolo County citizen. Illegal disposal of hazardous wastes affects citizens by compromising a finite amount of resources. There is only one landfill in Yolo County and we all share it,” said Reisig.

Reisig continued, “We are pleased to work with other District Attorneys and law enforcement statewide to stop this illegal dumping of hazardous wastes. We stand together in protecting our communities and resources.”

Yolo County will receive \$800,000 as a result of its prosecution efforts. This money will be shared between the District Attorney’s Office Consumer Fraud and Environmental Protection Division and the Yolo County Environmental Health Department to cover the costs of the investigation, to support training programs and to fund additional environmental investigations. In concluding Reisig stated, “Our Consumer Fraud and Environmental Unit started only three years ago. This settlement highlights the hard work and devotion of staff in that division to protecting our environment.”

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