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COUNTY OF FRESNO

NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
AWARENESS MONTH

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NEWS RELEASE

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Bed Bath & Beyond Ordered to Pay \$1.49 Million to Settle Civil Prosecution for Environmental Violations

The Fresno County District Attorney's Office announced today that their office, along with 30 other California District Attorney's Offices and the Los Angeles City Attorney's Office, settled an environmental violations civil prosecution in which Bed Bath & Beyond, Inc. ("Bed Bath & Beyond") was ordered to pay \$1,498,750.

The stipulated judgment is the culmination of a civil enforcement lawsuit filed last month alleging that more than 200 Bed Bath & Beyond stores throughout the state (including Cost Plus, buybuy BABY, Harmon, Harmon Face Values, World Market, and Cost Plus World Market) unlawfully handled, transported and disposed of batteries, electronic devices, ignitable liquids, aerosol products, cleaning agents, and other flammable, reactive, toxic, and corrosive materials, at local landfills not authorized to receive such waste materials.

The investigation was initiated by the Ventura County District Attorney's Office following two separate waste fires in the City of Oxnard that investigators attributed to a Bed Bath & Beyond store that improperly handled and disposed of hazardous waste, including lithium batteries, a small can of lighter fluid, broken compact fluorescent bulbs and various discarded electronic devices. One fire occurred at an Oxnard waste transfer facility, while the other ignited in a trash compactor at the rear of the Oxnard Bed Bath & Beyond store.

Following those events, district attorney's and city attorney's offices statewide teamed-up with local environmental regulatory officials to conduct a series of undercover inspections of other Bed Bath & Beyond stores. These inspections found Bed Bath & Beyond to be routinely and systematically sending hazardous waste materials from its stores to local landfills throughout California.

When notified of the investigation, Bed Bath & Beyond cooperated and agreed to dedicate additional resources towards environmental compliance and has taken steps to improve its regulated-waste management program by performing regular self-audits of its compactors and waste bins.

Under the final judgment, Bed Bath & Beyond must pay \$1,327,500 in civil penalties and as reimbursement for investigation and prosecution costs. The company will pay an additional \$171,250 to fund supplemental environmental projects furthering environmental enforcement in California. The retailer will also be subject to the terms of a permanent injunction prohibiting future violations of law.

The media may direct any inquiries to FCDAMedia@fresnocountyca.gov.