



## NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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### **District Attorney Settles Statewide Retail Hazardous Waste Case with Ross Stores, Inc. for \$3,335,000**

The Fresno County District Attorney's Office announced today that their office, along with 38 other California District Attorneys' Offices and two City Attorneys' Offices, have reached a settlement totaling \$3,335,000 in a civil law enforcement action against Ross Stores, Inc. ("Ross") for violations of hazardous waste laws and regulations. Ross, headquartered in Dublin, California, operates 441 retail stores and distribution facilities throughout the State of California under the brand names "Ross Dress for Less" and "dd's DISCOUNTS."

District Attorney Investigators from various counties conducted undercover waste audits at Ross facilities and found unauthorized waste, such as electronic devices, batteries, mercury-containing CFL lamps, aerosol products, cleaning agents, and other flammable, toxic, and corrosive materials. Additionally, it was discovered that Ross had been sending regulated hazardous wastes from stores to local landfills throughout California. The investigation also revealed violations related to the storage and transport of hazardous waste and employee training requirements regarding hazardous waste handling.

When Ross officials were notified by prosecutors of their investigative findings, they immediately began to cooperate by addressing specific violations and overall environmental compliance. Ross implemented improvements to its existing employee training and regulated waste management programs and began performing self-audits of its compactors and waste bins in California. These self-audits will continue for a period of five years as a term of the settlement.

Under the Final Judgment, Ross will pay \$3,335,000 in civil penalties, reimbursement of investigation and prosecution costs, and for supplemental environmental projects, which will further the protection of consumers and the environment in California. Ross will get a credit of \$600,000 against the civil penalties if it undertakes at least \$1,200,000 in environmental enhancement work not required by law. Ross will also be bound by terms of an injunction prohibiting similar violations of law in the future.

Chief Deputy District Attorney Scott Hoedt said, "All who violate environmental protection laws must be held accountable, including companies who conduct business statewide and in Fresno County. I wish to thank our colleagues in Monterey and Alameda counties for spearheading this cooperative enforcement action, and to all the others involved for their hard work and dedication to environmental protection. We hope that other businesses take note of the consequences of failing to safely and legally dispose of hazardous wastes. The Fresno County District Attorney's Office will continue to monitor businesses for proper compliance and prosecute those that violate our environmental protection laws."

The media may email [FCDAMedia@fresnocountyca.gov](mailto:FCDAMedia@fresnocountyca.gov) with questions.