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District Attorney

NEWS RELEASE

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Approved: LOL
Date: Friday, March 11, 2022
Release No.: 22-014

Carwash Company Settles Case for Unlawful Hazardous Waste Disposal

VENTURA, California – District Attorney Erik Nasarenko announced today that Sams KH Corp., doing business as Simi Auto Spa and Speed Wash located in Simi Valley, entered a settlement agreement following an unlawful disposal of hazardous waste from their car wash facility into the Arroyo Simi waterway.

On March 11, 2019, an employee of Sams KH Corp. disposed unused auto polish-wax into a storm drain at the facility which flowed into the Arroyo Simi waterway. This polish-wax contained the chemical sodium dodecylbenzene sulfonate, which is hazardous to wildlife. The quantity and concentration of the disposal caused the waterway to become bright green. Laboratory testing during the investigation determined that the amount of hazardous waste in the waterway was potentially lethal to aquatic life.

“Local waterways are fundamental to the health of wildlife in this region,” said District Attorney Erik Nasarenko. “Unlawful disposal of harmful chemicals into our environment warrants sanction, penalty and the implementation of new safety protocols.”

Under the terms of the settlement, Sams KH Corp. will pay \$65,000 in civil penalties for the unlawful disposal of hazardous waste. In addition, it will pay \$37,405 to reimburse the Ventura County Environmental Health Department, Ventura County Fire Department, City of Ventura Fire Department, Department of Fish & Wildlife, the City of Simi Valley Stormwater Division, and the District Attorney’s Office for costs relating to the initial response and subsequent investigation of the incident. The settlement also includes a permanent injunction prohibiting Sams KH Corp. from unlawfully disposing of hazardous waste and requires the facility to implement employee training protocols regarding the handling, storage, and disposal of hazardous waste.

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The Ventura County District Attorney's Office is the public prosecutor for the county's 850,000 residents. The office employs approximately 290 employees including attorneys, investigators, victim advocates, and professional support staff who strive to seek justice, ensure public safety, and protect the rights of crime victims.