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NEWS RELEASE



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Quest Diagnostics Settles Lawsuit for Illegal Disposal of Hazardous Waste, Medical Waste, and Patient Information for Nearly \$5 Million

VENTURA, Calif. – District Attorney Erik Nasarenko announced today that Quest Diagnostics, Inc., a national Fortune 500 diagnostic testing company, settled a multi-jurisdictional civil lawsuit involving the offices of California Attorney General Rob Bonta and the District Attorneys of Alameda, Los Angeles, Monterey, Orange, Sacramento, San Bernardino, San Joaquin, San Mateo, Ventura, and Yolo Counties. The lawsuit resolved allegations that Quest Diagnostics engaged in unlawful business practices in violation of Business and Professions Code 17200. The corporation unlawfully disposed of hazardous waste, medical waste, and protected health information at its facilities statewide, in violation of the Hazardous Waste Control Law, Medical Waste Management Act, and civil laws prohibiting the unauthorized disclosure of personal health information.

The settlement is the result of approximately 30 inspections conducted by the district attorneys' offices at multiple Quest Diagnostics laboratories and Patient Service Centers (PSCs) statewide. During those inspections, the district attorneys' offices reviewed the contents of Quest Diagnostics' compactors and dumpsters, and found over 100 partially full gallon containers holding laboratory chemicals, as well as bleach, reagents, batteries, and other electronic waste; unredacted medical information; medical waste such as used specimen containers for blood and urine; and hazardous waste such as solvents and hand sanitizer.

“The Simi Valley Landfill & Recycling Center and Ventura County residents were negatively impacted by Quest’s illegal disposal of hazardous waste, medical waste, and protected patient information,” said Ventura County District Attorney Erik Nasarenko. “Thanks to the hard work of the California Attorney General’s office, the District Attorney’s office and our partner agencies, this

settlement will ensure that Quest complies with the law and implements strong measures to protect the health, safety, and privacy of our residents.”

After being notified of the investigations, Quest Diagnostics implemented numerous changes to bring its facilities into compliance with California law, including hiring an independent environmental auditor to review the disposal of waste at its facilities and modifying its operating and training procedures to improve handling, storage, and disposal of hazardous waste, medical waste, and personal health information.

As part of the settlement, which resolves the allegations above, Quest Diagnostics will be required to pay nearly \$5 million for penalties, costs, and supplemental environmental projects to benefit the community and make significant changes to operations and practices at its California facilities. The settlement also imposes injunctive terms, including requirements that Quest Diagnostics maintain an environmental compliance program, including hiring a third-party waste auditor, and report annually on its progress.