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NEWS RELEASE



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Investigation Uncovers Illegal Petroleum Discharge into Grimes Canyon Creek

VENTURA, Calif. – An investigation by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) and the Ventura County District Attorney’s Office has determined that a petroleum-contaminated wastewater discharge into Grimes Canyon Creek originated from a vacuum truck operated by a temporary employee of Advanced Industrial Services, Inc. (AIS).

The case began on November 1, 2022, when an employee of California Natural Resources Group discovered petroleum byproduct in a dry creek bed at the Dryden oil lease facility in Fillmore. Environmental authorities launched an investigation to determine the source of the contamination.

Investigators used a combination of physical evidence, logbook records, photographs, tire tread analysis, and witness statements to

track the discharge back to an AIS-operated vacuum truck. Evidence showed that between 4:00 a.m. and 4:49 a.m., the driver loaded petroleum-contaminated wastewater, backed the truck up to Grimes Canyon Creek, and discharged approximately 150 gallons into a ravine leading to the



creek bed. The driver then left without reporting the spill, as required by law.

“This case underscores the importance of thorough environmental investigations and the critical role of state and local partnerships to protect Ventura County’s natural resources,” said District Attorney Erik Nasarenko. “The objective of this settlement is to ensure that harmful discharges into our environment do not reoccur.”



Following the investigation, AIS reached a \$29,736 settlement with the Ventura County District Attorney's Office. The company was also ordered to comply with permanent injunctive terms prohibiting the unlawful disposal of petroleum products.

Authorities urge the public to report any suspected environmental violations to ensure the protection of local waterways and ecosystems.

