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PRESS RELEASE

March 15, 2017

Mendocino County District Attorney David Eyster announced today that the Contra Costa Superior Court has ordered Golden Gate Petroleum Co., Bay Area/Diablo Petroleum Company and Westgate Petroleum Company, Inc. to pay three million dollars in civil penalties, penalties that relate to the operation of underground storage tanks and management of hazardous materials and wastes in seven different counties. The order was issued on March 13, 2017 following a contested hearing which took place on February 9, 2017 in Martinez. The action was brought in the name of the People of the State of California by the California Attorney General and the District Attorneys of Monterey, Alameda, Santa Clara, Sonoma, Humboldt, Lake, and Mendocino counties.

Prosecutors, in the name of the People of the State of California, had previously brought a lawsuit and successfully obtained a judgment against the Defendants in 2011 granting a permanent injunction and awarding six million dollars in civil penalties, of which three million dollars were suspended conditioned on the Defendants' strict compliance with the injunction. However, it was proven at the evidentiary hearing that the Defendants committed violations of the injunction at ten different locations spread through the various jurisdictions since 2011. As a result the Mendocino County District Attorney's Office joined with the other offices in bringing this action to have the previously suspended three million dollars in penalties imposed against the companies and payable to the plaintiffs.

District Attorney Eyster joins in and brings actions such as these to protect public health and safety and to ensure that businesses comply with their legal responsibilities to safeguard the environment.