



NEWS RELEASE

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HUMBOLDT COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE, IN COOPERATION WITH THE CALIFORNIA ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE AND THE STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD OBTAIN ONE MILLION AND ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLAR JUDGMENT AGAINST BIG OIL & TIRE, CO.

The Humboldt County District Attorney's Office announced today that a judgment was entered against Big Oil & Tire, Co., for One Million and One Hundred Thousand dollars (\$1,100,000.00) arising out of Big Oil's failure to maintain and test their underground fuel storage tank systems which resulted in potential releases, leaks and discharges at the defendant's facilities. The case was prosecuted in partnership with the California Attorney General's Office, the California District Attorneys Association, and the State Water Resources Control Board.

In addition to the monetary judgment, the judgment requires Big Oil & Tire to make any and all necessary repairs to make their underground storage tanks compliant with state and federal laws and regulations; install and maintain functional spill and overflow prevention equipment on their tanks; submit to and receive a certification that each of their underground storage tanks passed secondary containment and cathodic protection testing; and submit to all necessary compliance inspections. Big Oil & Tire, Co., is also required to cooperate with the People in any future investigation involving violations of environmental laws should such violations be revealed to the People.

District Attorney, Paul Gallegos, credited the judgment to the hard work and dedication of Supervising Deputy Attorney General Robert Byrne; Deputy District Attorney, Matthew Maclear; the California District Attorneys Association Circuit Prosecutor Project; David Boyers, State Water Resources Control Board Senior Staff Counsel and the many dedicated state and county regulatory employees that made the judgment possible.