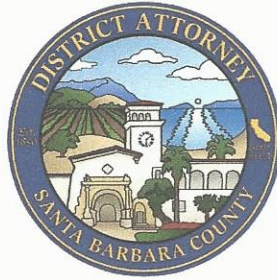


OFFICE OF THE  
**DISTRICT ATTORNEY**  
COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA  
**JOYCE E. DUDLEY**  
District Attorney



DA 05-310

RELEASE NUMBER

May 28, 2015

RELEASE DATE

*Joyce E. Dudley*

APPROVED BY: JOYCE E. DUDLEY, DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Kelly D. Scott, Chief Deputy District Attorney

CONTACT (805) 568-2309

\*\*\*\*\* PRESS RELEASE \*\*\*\*\*

May 28, 2015

***Dollar Tree Stores to Pay \$2.72 Million Settlement for Environmental Violations***  
***Dollar Tree Illegally Disposed of Hazardous Wastes at its Retail Stores and Distribution Centers***

Santa Barbara County District Attorney Joyce E. Dudley, together with 45 other California District Attorneys and two City Attorneys, announced today that Alameda County Superior Court Judge Morris Jacobson has ordered Virginia corporation Dollar Tree Stores, Inc. to \$2,720,000 in civil penalties, costs, and supplemental environmental projects. Dollar Tree Stores is also ordered to implement an improved hazardous waste compliance program at its retail stores and distribution centers in California.

The judgment is the result of an investigation into Dollar Tree Stores' unlawful disposal into store trash bins of hazardous waste products. Ignitable and corrosive liquids, toxic materials, batteries, electronic devices and other e-waste, and other hazardous waste generated by circumstances including spills and damage, were illegally handled and disposed of at each of its stores and distribution centers, over 480 facilities in California. Instead of being transported to authorized hazardous waste facilities, the waste was illegally transported to local landfills not permitted to accept the waste.

"Thanks to the collaborative efforts of the District and City Attorneys throughout the state, businesses operating in California are becoming more aware of their environmental responsibilities. And, as a result, those who live and work in and travel through California will be better protected," said District Attorney Dudley.

The investigation included statewide inspections of Dollar Tree Stores' dumpsters by inspectors from district attorney's offices and other environmental regulators who discovered that Dollar Tree Stores was routinely and systematically sending hazardous wastes to local landfills. Store inspections over the years also demonstrated Dollar Tree Stores routinely failed to properly handle and dispose of hazardous waste. Prosecutors alerted Dollar Tree Stores to the widespread violations, and Dollar Tree Stores was cooperative throughout the continued investigation. Dollar Tree Stores adopted and implemented new policies and procedures and training programs designed to properly manage and dispose of hazardous waste. The hazardous waste is now being collected by state-registered haulers who transport it to authorized disposal facilities, and disposal is properly documented.

There are three Dollar Tree Stores in Santa Barbara County. Under the final judgment, Dollar Tree Stores will pay \$1,250 in civil costs and penalties and cost recovery to the Santa Barbara District Attorney's Office and \$1,125 in civil costs and penalties and cost recovery to Santa Barbara County Environmental Health Services.

\*\*\*\*\*

□ SANTA BARBARA OFFICE  
1112 Santa Barbara Street  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101  
(805) 568-2300  
Fax: (805) 568-2398

□ SANTA MARIA OFFICE  
312-D East Cook Street  
Santa Maria, CA 93454  
(805) 346-7540  
Fax: (805) 346-7588

□ LOMPOC OFFICE  
115 Civic Center Plaza  
Lompoc, CA 93436  
(805) 737-7760  
Fax: (805) 737-7732