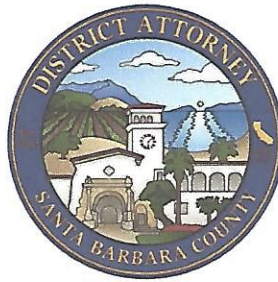


OFFICE OF THE
DISTRICT ATTORNEY
COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA
JOYCE E. DUDLEY
District Attorney



DA 02-345
RELEASE NUMBER
February 29, 2016
RELEASE DATE
Joyce E. Dudley
APPROVED BY JOYCE E. DUDLEY, DISTRICT ATTORNEY
Kevin Weichbrod, District Attorney
CONTACT PERSON (805) 568-2437

***** PRESS RELEASE *****
February 29, 2016

Re: *People v. Imerys Minerals California, Inc.*

District Attorney Joyce E. Dudley announced today that the Environmental Protection Unit of the District Attorney's Office has settled a civil suit against Imerys Minerals California, Inc., a mining company with a facility located near Lompoc, California. Imerys Minerals is responsible for the release of approximately 202,000 gallons of non-toxic, non-hazardous, but potentially harmful mining slurry into the San Miguelito Creek on two separate occasions.

This case is the result of a joint investigation by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and the State Water Resources Control Board. In January of 2014, authorities were notified of a release of diatomaceous earth slurry, a mining by-product of fine dust and water, into the San Miguelito Creek. The release was caused by a faulty pump and an associated malfunctioning shut-off system.

The settlement, among other terms, requires Imerys to do the following: (1) pay \$350,000 in civil penalties; (2) plan and implement approved restoration measures in the San Miguelito Creek and surrounding area; (3) submit to authorized inspections by regulatory personnel; and (4) update the pumping and monitoring systems for the facility. The \$350,000 in civil penalties will be divided among the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, the State Water Resources Control Board, and the Santa Barbara District Attorney's Office. The civil penalties are used exclusively to fund environmental and consumer protection enforcement.

The Environmental Protection Division of the District Attorney's Office is dedicated to protecting our natural resources, public health, and holding those corporations or persons accountable who harm our local environment.

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