

# County of Mono Office of the District Attorney

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## OFFICIAL PRESS RELEASE

Mono County District Attorney, together with 41 other California District Attorneys and 2 City Attorneys is pleased to announce today that Alameda County Superior Court Judge Wynne S. Carvill has approved a Stipulated Final Judgment and Permanent Injunction against Pleasanton-based Safeway Inc. The settlement resolves allegations that more than 500 Safeway stores and its affiliated stores, including its Vons brand, violated California laws for the safe storage, handling and disposal of hazardous and pharmaceutical waste generated from spills and customer returns of hazardous products.

The investigation into Safeway's practices began after discovery of improper shipments of hazardous and pharmaceutical waste. The investigation revealed that Safeway was also routinely and systematically sending hazardous and pharmaceutical wastes to local area landfills not equipped to receive such waste. Upon being notified by prosecutors of the widespread issues, Safeway worked cooperatively to remedy the issue, enhance its environmental compliance program and train its employees to properly handle such waste.

Pursuant to the terms of the Final Judgment and Permanent Injunction, California Safeway stores have adopted new policies and procedures designed to eliminate the improper disposal of retail hazardous waste products and pharmaceutical waste. In addition, the corporation must pay \$9.87 million in civil penalties, costs and supplemental environmental projects.

"Thanks to the collaborative efforts of the District and City Attorneys throughout the state, businesses operating in California are well aware of their environmental responsibilities and our environment and beyond, is better protected as a result," said District Attorney Tim Kendall.