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CITY OF SACRAMENTO

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DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

915 I STREET SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95814
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J.F. VAROZZA
Director
M.H. JOHNSON
Asst. Director

May 22, 1984

City Council
Sacramento, California

Honorable Members in Session:

SUBJECT: Hazardous Wastes in Southern Pacific Transportation Company's (SPTC)
Sacramento Yard

SUMMARY:

Last year the City Council requested that staff keep them informed regarding the status of the hazardous waste problem at the SPTC's Sacramento facility. The State Department of Health Services (SDOHS) has issued a news release (copy attached) that states that an out of court settlement has been made between the SDOHS and SPTC regarding the storage, handling, and disposing of hazardous wastes at the SPTC's facility. In addition to a \$40,000 fine, the SDOHS and the SPTC entered into an agreement which requires the SPTC to submit various reports and plans of correction in addressing the problems of hazardous waste. City staff has contacted the SDOHS and requested that we be kept informed of progress on this problem and that we have access to various reports that the SPTC will be required to submit as it proceeds on its plan of correction. The SDOHS has agreed to cooperate in this matter and staff will report to the City Council as these future reports from the SPTC become available.

Respectfully submitted,

JF
M. Johnson
J. F. VAROZZA
Director of Public Works

FOR COUNCIL INFORMATION

Walter J. Slize
Walter J. Slize, City Manager

JFV/hma

att.

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MAY 22 1984

May 22, 1984
District No. 1

DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH SERVICES

714 P STREET, SACRAMENTO, CA, 95814

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CITY OF SACRAMENTO
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NEWS NEWS

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NUMBER: 45-84
FOR RELEASE: IMMEDIATE

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DATE: April 27, 1984
CONTACT: Lanny Clavecilla
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Southern Pacific Transportation Company will pay \$40,000 to---and place an additional \$10,000 in a trust account for---the State Department of Health Services as part of an out of court settlement over charges it illegally stored, handled and disposed of hazardous wastes at its Sacramento facility.

The settlement stems from an inspection in July 1983 by US Environmental Protection Agency and state health officials which found SP's maintenance yards in the city improperly using an unlined pit on the locomotive work's northern edge near Interstate 5 and the Sacramento River for dumping hazardous industrial wastes. Estimates show around 600 to 700 gallons of industrial solvents, paints and other products were dumped daily into the pit without the proper permits.

In addition, state health officials allege SP violated numerous other regulations governing handling and disposal of hazardous wastes, including failure to submit hazardous waste facility reports required by law, failure to ensure its wastes were disposed in licensed hazardous waste facilities, failure to staff and equip the Sacramento maintenance station appropriately in light of the toxic chemicals found at the site and failure to pay on-site disposal fees required by the State for hazardous waste disposal.

According to Marian King, the Department attorney who worked out the settlement with SP representatives, the agreement calls for SP to submit to the Department various reports and a plan of correction addressing the problem of hazardous waste within specific timetables, provide an Operations Plan for a hazardous waste facility permit in the next 60 days and construct and operate a Department-approved wastewater pretreatment plant. SP has agreed to provide a groundwater monitoring program, overall site inspections and detailed listings of hazardous materials handled, stored, spilled or disposed on its grounds.

State Health Director Peter Rank indicated this kind of industry cooperation will help the Department's Toxics Enforcement Program achieve its goals. Said Rank:

"This agreement, and others like it, that our legal department is working on, form an essential cornerstone of our program. Industry cooperation is a highly effective avenue of remedying toxic pollution of the environment in California."

Settlement money will be used to reimburse the Department for resources expended in investigating the waste problems at the SP facility in Sacramento.