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PRESS RELEASE

**Central Valley Super Market Chain to Pay More Than \$2.5 million for
Settlement of Retail Hazardous Waste Disposal Case.**

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Fairfield, California – District Attorney Donald A. du Bain announced today that his office, together with 34 other California District Attorney Offices, has reached a settlement in San Joaquin County Superior Court of a civil law enforcement action against Save Mart Supermarkets, headquartered in Modesto, California, totaling more than \$2.5 million. Save Mart Supermarkets operate throughout California and include the Food Maxx, Maxx Foods and Lucky brands. The settlement resolves allegations that Save Mart violated California laws for the safe storage, handling and disposal of hazardous waste generated from spills and customer returns of hazardous products.

Investigators from various environmental health agencies throughout the state and participating District Attorney's Offices as well as local hazardous waste inspectors engaged in a statewide investigation that revealed violations of law at Save Mart stores. Save Mart worked collaboratively with the prosecutors and investigating agencies to address the specific violations. As a result of the investigation and prosecution, regulated wastes produced by California Save Mart stores will now be properly stored, handled, transported, and disposed of at proper facilities and appropriate records will be kept documenting compliance with California law.

The alleged violations occurred over a period of several years at most, if not all, of the California Save Mart stores and distribution centers, which includes Albertson's Stores acquired by Save Mart and converted to either the Lucky or the Save Mart brand. Save Mart Supermarkets currently operates 3 Lucky stores, 2 Food Maxx stores and one distribution center in Solano County.

Under the Final Judgment Save Mart must pay \$2.557 million in civil penalties, costs and expenses for supplemental environmental projects furthering consumer protection and environmental enforcement in the State, and will be bound under the terms of a permanent injunction prohibiting similar alleged violations of law in the future. Save Mart is also ordered to pay \$7,800 in civil penalties and cost recovery to the Solano County Environmental Health Division and \$246,200 in civil penalties and cost recovery to the Solano County District Attorney's Office.

"As a result of this statewide effort by prosecutors, businesses such as Save Mart are stepping up their efforts to comply with California environmental regulations. Once Save Mart was aware of the investigation, the company was quick to address the issues by incorporating proper handling of hazardous waste throughout the company, thereby reducing the risk of environmental contamination." said Donald A. du Bain, Solano County District Attorney.