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## **Chemical Manufacturing Behemoth Monsanto Forced to Pay \$550 Million**

*San Diego set to receive multi-million dollar settlement for toxic chemical cleanup*

Today, the Office of San Diego City Attorney Mara W. Elliott and twelve other governmental entities announced a proposed settlement of \$550 million in the nationwide class action lawsuit against Monsanto Company and related subsidiaries to clean up cancer-causing polychlorinated biphenyl (PCBs) from contaminated waterways throughout the country.

More than a dozen lawsuits have been filed by governmental entities since March 2015 for the environmental contamination caused by PCBs, which Monsanto manufactured between the 1930s and 1977.

**“Monsanto has profited handsomely for decades and will finally be held responsible for the damage it knowingly caused by manufacturing a product that put the public’s health at risk,”** San Diego City Attorney Mara W. Elliott said. **“The City can use the settlement funds to begin removing PCBs from San Diego’s beautiful bays and waterways so that our precious water resources are preserved for future generations.”**

The plaintiffs leading the nationwide resolution in addition to the City of San Diego include the cities of Berkeley, Oakland, San Jose, Long Beach, Chula Vista, Spokane, Tacoma, Portland, and Baltimore, together with the counties of Baltimore and Los Angeles, and the Port of Portland. The cases were collectively litigated for over 5 years and settled on the eve of the first trial.

The proposed class action must be approved by federal Judge Fernando M. Olguin in Los Angeles prior to providing payments to the governmental entity class members. When finalized, all class members will receive a monetary benefit and funds to cover costs incurred to protect and remediate America’s waterways.

The City of San Diego is represented by City Attorney Mara W. Elliott’s Affirmative Civil Enforcement (ACE) Unit: Chief Deputy City Attorney Mark Ankcorn, Deputy City Attorney Kevin B. King, and Deputy City Attorney Marni von Wilpert. The law firm of Baron & Budd, with offices in Dallas and San Diego, represented all of the litigating entities.

ACE pursues public interest causes of action on behalf of the People of the State of California under the Unfair Competition Law, including consumer privacy, predatory lending, and unsafe and dangerous products. The ACE Unit enforces laws that protect consumers, employees, and the environment, and advocates for change when existing laws fall short. Through its own litigation and by collaborating with others inside and outside government, the ACE Unit protects public health and safety, restores environmental quality, and sustains economic vitality.

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