



## San Diego City Attorney Mara W. Elliott

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 25, 2017**  
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### **City Attorney Cracks Down on Hazardous Waste**

*Three companies to pay penalties for asbestos violations in Normal Heights*

City Attorney Mara W. Elliott announced today that three San Diego businesses have agreed to pay civil penalties for violating state hazardous waste laws by failing to properly handle and remove asbestos-laden building materials from a Felton Street property in August 2016. In addition to violating California's strict hazardous waste control laws, the businesses put construction workers at risk, a California Labor Code violation.

WSC Investment Partners LLC, SRM Investments LLC, and A-Cal Construction Services will pay restitution, costs, and penalties totaling \$31,988. In addition, the businesses will be permanently enjoined from improperly removing, handling or disposing of asbestos.

These violations – including asbestos materials mixed in with construction debris -- were investigated by the County of San Diego's Department of Environmental Health, Hazardous Materials Division.

**“My office has no compassion for businesses that skirt environmental laws and endanger public safety to line their own pockets,”** City Attorney Mara W. Elliott said. **“Improper disposal of asbestos endangers workers and our neighborhoods. We aggressively enforce our hazardous waste laws to protect public health and our communities.”**

Asbestos is a naturally occurring silicate mineral fiber material that is very strong and has great resistance to heat. Until the 1970s, it was commonly found in popcorn ceiling coatings, ceiling insulation, heating and air duct lining and insulation, and floor tiles in many homes.

Asbestos has been prohibited in home manufacturing since 1978, but its presence still poses a major health and safety risk in older homes. Mesothelioma, lung cancer, asbestosis, and other ailments have all been linked to asbestos exposure. For information on asbestos, please refer to our [newsletter](#).

Homeowners should never attempt to remove or disturb any asbestos-containing material. In California, only home improvement contractors who have specialized training are allowed to work with asbestos. A quick search on the California Industrial Relations [website](#) will determine if your contractor is properly certified to handle asbestos.

This civil enforcement case was prosecuted for the People of the State of California by Deputy City Attorney Cheryl Shitabata. (A copy of the Complaint filed on Friday, September 28, 2017 and Stipulated Judgment and Final Injunction filed on October 5, 2017 are attached.)

The City Attorney's [Consumer & Environmental Protection Unit](#) (CEPU) maintains a Hotline at (619) 533-5600 for community members to report fraud, waste, or abuse. The duties of CEPU include investigating and prosecuting false advertising, unfair business practices, and environmental crimes

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