



# ERIK NASARENKO

VENTURA COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY

## NEWS RELEASE



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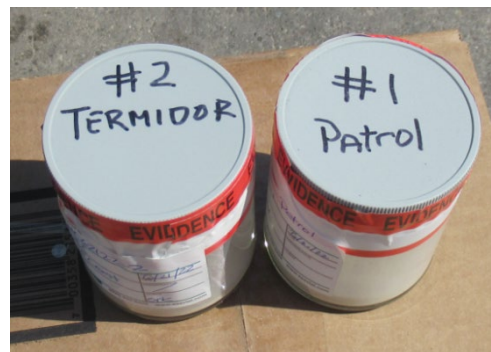
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### Pest Control Companies to Pay \$3.15 Million After Statewide Probe into Hazardous Waste Violations

VENTURA, Calif. – Ventura County District Attorney Erik Nasarenko announced today that the Ventura County District Attorney's Office, along with 11 other California District Attorneys, has reached a \$3.15 million settlement with Clark Pest Control of Stockton (Clark), Orkin Services of California (Orkin), and Crane Pest Control (Crane). The judgment resolves allegations that the companies violated California laws involving the unlawful disposal of pesticides, hazardous waste, and the failure to take reasonable steps to protect customer personal information.

Clark, Orkin, and Crane provide residential and commercial pest control services and are owned by Georgia based Rollins, Inc. The companies operate more than 70 facilities in California, including Clark Pest Control in Newbury Park and an Orkin facility in Camarillo, where violations were found.

The investigation was led by the District Attorneys of San Mateo County and Contra Costa County and began in 2021. From March 2021 through February 2022, several District Attorneys' Offices throughout the state, including Ventura, made unannounced compliance waste audits of 40 dumpsters originating at 22 separate Clark and Orkin facilities. These inspections uncovered thousands of unlawfully disposed pesticide liquids, powders, foams, baits, pellets and aerosol sprays along with other hazardous waste materials such as batteries, electronic waste, hand sanitizers, caulking, adhesives, and facility cleaning solutions.



TOP: Collected samples of Termidor & Patrol Insecticide from Orkin in Camarillo.

BOTTOM: Selontra Rodent Bait marked evidence from Clark Pest Control in Newbury Park

“Ventura County was one of the counties where unannounced audits occurred, and those findings reinforced the need for stronger compliance,” District Attorney Nasarenko said. “This case reflects the effective coordination among District Attorneys’ Offices statewide to protect our environment and ensure companies follow the law.”



*Phantom Termiticide/Insecticide in trash bin at Orkin Camarillo.*

Investigators also discovered thousands of improperly discarded customer records that should have been rendered unreadable prior to disposal as required by California privacy laws. These records included service orders, contracts, invoices, and route reports.

After being notified of the violations, Clark and Orkin cooperated with prosecutors and took steps to improve their policies and procedures related to hazardous waste handling and the protection of confidential customer information.

Under the stipulated final judgment, Clark, Orkin, and Crane will pay a total of \$3,150,000. This amount includes \$2,017,000 in civil penalties, \$400,000 in Supplemental Environmental Compliance projects, \$333,000 in investigative costs, and \$400,000 in credit for Supplemental Environmental Compliance Measures.

As part of the statewide judgment, the Ventura County District Attorney’s Office expects to receive \$125,000 in penalties and \$26,880 in costs.

The judgment also requires the companies to make significant operational reforms for a period of no less than five years:

- Retention of a third-party auditor to conduct dumpster audits at a minimum of 10% of its facilities each year for five years.
- Report the findings of the dumpster audits to the prosecutors.
- Require that all facility employees complete a training program that ensures compliance with applicable pesticide waste and hazardous waste management and maintain proof of the training for three years.
- Devote a minimum of two thousand (2,000) hours per year for each year in which the judgment remains in effect to enhanced environmental compliance measures, including compliance reviews of waste accumulation areas, oversight of waste minimization efforts by



*Selontra Rodent Bait in trash at Clark Pest Control in Newbury Park.*

company technicians, and oversight of enhanced hazardous waste compliance management.

Senior Deputy District Attorney Edward Andrews and retired Senior Deputy District Attorney Karen Wold prosecuted the case for Ventura County and District Attorney Environmental Specialist Steve Mattern conducted the investigation at Clark Pest Control in Newbury Park and the Orkin facility in Camarillo.

The Ventura County District Attorney's Office joined the District Attorneys of San Mateo, Contra Costa, Alameda, Santa Clara, San Joaquin, Solano, Sonoma, Yolo, Orange, Riverside, and San Diego counties in this enforcement action.



*Waste Audit at Clark Pest Control in Newbury Park.*



*Chase Mole & Gopher Repellent at Orkin in Camarillo.*