SACRAMENTO METROPOLITAN AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

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News Release

Jury Favors Air District, Sprague Found Liable for Asbestos Pollution

The Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District was awarded $742,885 in civil penalties in an enforcement action brought against Jerome Sprague.

The penalty award followed a jury verdict holding that Sprague willfully and intentionally violated the District's asbestos removal regulations on two separate occasions, resulting in the emission of asbestos.

"The District prefers to settle actions through our Mutual Settlement Process and our goal is always to reach a fair penalty that deters future violations," said AQMD's Executive Officer Larry Greene. "When violators do not participate in the MSP process, the District has no choice but to pursue legal action awarding penalties, and we will do so whenever that course becomes necessary."

District enforcement staff documented violations, which involved multi-day occurrences in the winter and summer of 2000. The illegal removal of the regulated asbestos containing material occurred at a commercial building site located in Fair Oaks, CA owned and operated by Jerome Sprague.

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