

OFFICE OF THE
DISTRICT ATTORNEY
COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

JOYCE E. DUDLEY
District Attorney



DA 10-591

RELEASE NUMBER

October 27, 2020

RELEASE DATE

Joyce E. Dudley
Christopher Dalbey, Deputy District Attorney

CONTACT (805) 568-2436

***** PRESS RELEASE *****

Re: *People v. Stop & Shop Gas #2*; Case No. 20CV01075

Gas Station Operator Settles Environmental Protection Action

The People Alleged Violations of Underground Storage Tank Laws

District Attorney Joyce E. Dudley announced today that her Environmental Protection Unit has obtained a \$25,000 stipulated final judgment against Stop & Shop Gas #2, Inc. and Mr. Aied M. Abdullatif. The settlement resolves allegations that the Defendants violated the law by failing to maintain their leak-detection sensors, such that they could detect leaks at the earliest possible opportunity, at their gas station on South Milpas Street in Santa Barbara.

The Defendants cooperated with the District Attorney's Office and negotiated a resolution to the lawsuit. The Final Judgment includes the following provisions:

- \$20,000 in civil penalties to Santa Barbara County Certified Unified Program Agency.
- \$3,500 as a Supplemental Environmental Project to the Craig Thompson Environmental Protection Prosecution Fund.
- \$1,500 as a Supplemental Environmental Project to the Certified Unified Program Agency Forum, Training Fund.
- Injunction mandating compliance with applicable Underground Storage Tank laws.

District Attorney Dudley said, "Leaks of underground gas tanks are difficult to detect, one pin-prick-sized hole can leak 400 gallons per year, and 12 ounces of gasoline can contaminate 40,000 gallons of groundwater. Leaks are costly to remedy, and these costs often fall on taxpayers. It is thus vital that laws governing leak-detection systems be enforced and violators be held accountable."

* * * * *